

TODAY FROM Token page 48 £34 RETURN STILL TIME TO FLY TO TWELVE EUROPEAN CITIES

Plus MEDIA How to sound out a job in radio; pages 39-42

The Net closes in on Clinton

BY BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE explosive report that could end Bill Clinton's presidency is set to be broadcast to the world on the Internet this afternoon...

The 445-page Starr report, which focuses entirely on the President's affair with Monica Lewinsky, is understood to allege that he is guilty of perjury, obstruction of justice, witness tampering and abuse of power...

The report could also provide grounds for the indictment of some of the President's closest friends and confidants, including the power-broker Vernon Jordan and the White House deputy counsel Bruce Lindsey.

One of the strongest of the cases against the President is believed to be that he committed perjury in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, lying under oath in January and again when he gave evidence to Mr Starr last month.

Much of the rest of the list, according to reports, is made up of allegations that Mr Clinton obstructed justice by stonewalling Mr Starr's inquiries. But "subornation of perjury" — the particularly devastating charge that he encouraged others, including Ms Lewinsky, to lie about the

On the precipice... Page 2 Dynamite boxes... Page 3 Hillary's future... Page 5 Tim Hames... Page 22 Leading article... Page 23

affair — appears not to be central to the case against the President.

Before Mr Clinton admitted the affair on August 17, many in Congress thought that he would remain unscathed unless Mr Starr could prove that he suborned witnesses. The present crisis — even in the absence of that proof — is a measure of how much his support has collapsed.

Congress's startling decision to publish the Starr report thrashed out in round-the-clock meetings since the documents were delivered to Capitol Hill in armoured cars on Wednesday night — adds the power of the global media to the relentless machinery of the American Constitution. It ensures that the American public as well as Congress will play a central part in deciding whether Mr Clinton is ousted from the White House or



Kenneth Starr yesterday after delivering his verdict on the President in 36 boxes of "dynamite"

hangs on to the shreds of power until the end of his term in 2000.

Last night, the White House was dismayed and demoralised, but Mr Clinton was said to be determined to remain in office. His spokesman, Mike McCurry, said that he had heard no discussion that the President had considered resigning and yesterday polls released yesterday showed that Mr Clinton continues to enjoy the support of just under 60 per cent of the people.

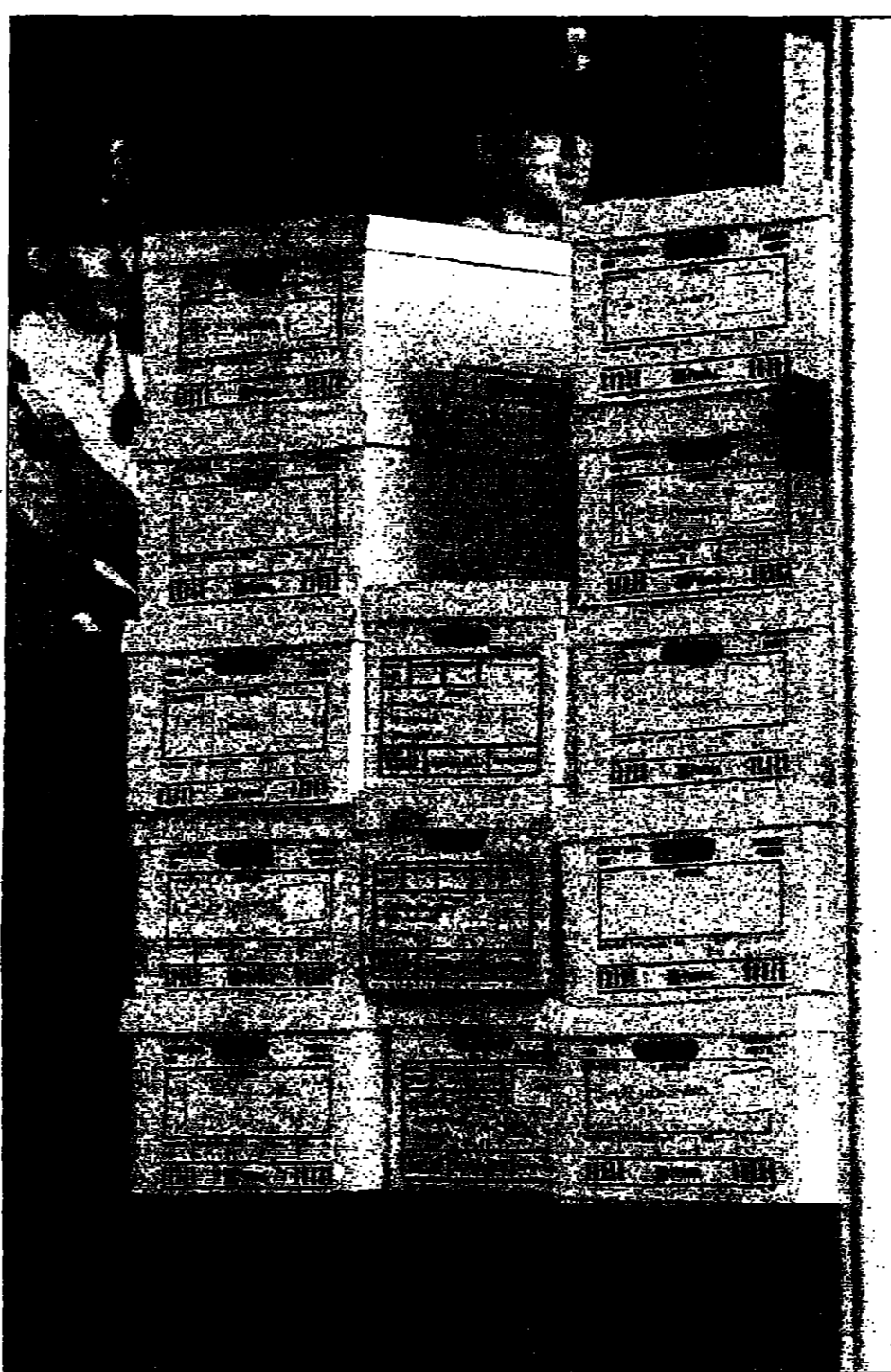
Mr Clinton's lawyers are furious that they have been rebuffed by Mr Starr and the House in their requests to see

the report and issue a formal defence before publication. The White House is afraid that ordinary voters jamming the Internet tonight will be misled by its status as a congressional document into reading it as an impartial report.

Mr Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, has described the report as a one-sided, biased assembly of uncorroborated stories, pointing out that it contains hearsay and anecdotes, and that none of the witnesses — who include Ms Lewinsky and her former friend Linda Tripp, whose tapes of their conversations set the scandal rolling in January — have been cross-examined by the President's side.

Last night the White House was clinging to faint hopes last night that a legal challenge could delay publication until Monday. But with the chances of that looking slim, the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives was preparing to retire today to begin debating whether there are grounds to remove Mr Clinton from office.

Yesterday the Speaker, Newt Gingrich, called for civility and decorum in the debate and told members to abstain from language personally abusive to the



President.

Mr Clinton himself made yet another public statement of regret yesterday, using a meeting of young scientists in the Roosevelt Room of the White House to ask for "understanding and forgiveness and commitment". He also called ten Senate Democrats to the Oval Office to plead for their support.

In a new, desperate strategy, he is seizing every opportunity to express regret and remorse for the affair with the 22-year-old former White House trainee. He may do so again today when he hosts a White House breakfast for the nation's religious leaders, and he faces a tense meeting with the Cabinet — the first gathering

of all the members since his emphatic denial of an affair in January — when he is expected to make a further heartfelt apology to those who stood in the rain to repeat his denials, notably the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

"He's got a lot of amends to make, and he'll be making those amends to all and everyone," Mr McCurry said. There were signs yesterday that his appeal to the loyalty of senior Democrats was having some success. Vice President Al Gore, who has been conspicuously absent and silent during the worsening crisis, made his most forthright defence of the President yesterday. Referring to Mr Clinton as "my friend and our Presi-

dent", he told a meeting of the Democratic Business Council that "his policies have been manifestly good for the United States of America and those policies must be continued for the good of America."

At the same time, Tom Daschle, leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, called yesterday's White House meeting "constructive and helpful", and said: "The President's story needs to be heard and we need to get the facts. So as well as co-operation on the President's side, we need fairness from Congress."

The senators asked Mr Clinton whether more damaging revelations might break. His answer was that, no, there were no surprises.

US could view confession tape

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS could one day see the videotape of President Clinton admitting to a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Congressmen will spend the next few days sifting 36 boxes of damning and highly embarrassing material relating to Kenneth Starr's excoriating report on the President's conduct.

The boxes, sent to Congress by the Special Prosecutor along with his report, contain potentially the most explosive and explicit record of a President's behaviour in the Oval Office. Although Congress is now entering legally uncharted territory, legal sources said last the tapes could emerge as exhibits in televised hearings.

Remarkable as the report is, the contents of the boxes may be more shocking if they are ever revealed. They contain 20 hours of tapes in which Miss Lewinsky described her relationship with Mr Clinton, transcripts of the cross-examination of witnesses and the videotape of the President's interrogation, including his admission, for the first time, that he had sexual relations with Miss Lewinsky. The FBI laboratory report on her dress, which was alleged to have been stained with Mr Clinton's semen, is also contained.

The evidence has been supplied to support Mr Starr's report which he accuses the President of being a serial liar who committed perjury and obstructed justice as he tried to hide his affair with Miss Lewinsky. The 445-page report also describes incidents of witness tampering and abuse

of power which the prosecutor believes are grounds for impeachment of the President.

The report, the first by a special prosecutor in which impeachment of a President has been recommended, opens with a 25-page summary of the most damning evidence and the grounds for impeachment. The bulk consists of 280 pages of narrative evidence on Mr Clinton's repeated encounters with Ms Lewinsky in a small room behind the Oval Office.

Most damaging to Mr Clinton may be the 140-page conclusion. Last night congressmen were planning to review this material before deciding who among their colleagues, or the wider public, should be allowed to see it.

The report is understood to paint a picture of a pattern of lying by Mr Clinton. In particular, it alleges that he is guilty of lying under oath in the deposition he gave in the sexual harassment lawsuit brought against him by Paula Jones. It also says he perjured himself again in the grand jury testimony last month in which he said that his evidence in that case had been legally accurate but misleading.

He is accused of using government employees to help sustain his lies. His dealings with Miss Lewinsky and Betty Currie, his secretary, both witnesses in the case, are examined in damning detail. The report dwells on how he approved a false press statement on the day the Lewinsky affair broke in January and allowed his aides to launch legal moves to block access to key witnesses.



Not now dear — I'm reading

TV & RADIO... 50-51 WEATHER... 26 CROSSWORDS... 26-52 LETTERS... 23 OBITUARIES... 25 TIM HAMES... 22 ARTS... 35-38 CHESS & BRIDGE... 46 COURT & SOCIAL... 24 BUSINESS... 27-32 STYLE... 20 MEDIA... 39-42

Buying The Times overseas Australia \$10; Belgium B 100; Canada \$10; Denmark Dkr 18.00; France F 100; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar G 100; Greece Dr 750; Netherlands F 100; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lfr 400; Malaysia M 25.00; Portugal P 200; Singapore S 25.00; Spain Ptas 2,500; Sweden Sfr 25.00; Switzerland Sfr 5.00; Tunisia Din 3,000; USA \$10.00; Periodicals postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Times, c/o Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001.



Yeltsin makes popular choice

Russia's political stalemate ended in a compromise when President Yeltsin chose Yevgeny Primakov, his former Foreign Minister, to be Russia's next Prime Minister. The appointment was widely welcomed and Mr Primakov's appointment is expected to be confirmed today... Page 17

Branson joins balloon rival

Richard Branson teamed up with Steve Fossett, his former rival, to pursue their shared dream of becoming the first people to fly around the world in a balloon. They plan to take off from Morocco in November... Page 6

IRA arms plan

As David Trimble and Gerry Adams heralded a new era of co-operation, the Government demilitarised Northern Ireland to encourage the IRA disarmament that must start soon if the peace process is to succeed... Page 6

Arsenal join Manchester United in takeover race

By Jason Nispe

THE battle for control of English football exploded into new life yesterday when Carlton Communications, the ITV company which makes The Bill and Peak Practice, revealed it is in talks that could lead to a takeover of Arsenal.

The team which beat Manchester United to the Premiership title and won the FA Cup last season, would be worth less than half the £62 million BSkyB had agreed to pay for the Manchester club only 24 hours before.

City analysts were predicting that Carlton would have to pay only about £20 million for Arsenal while some were saying that BSkyB had secured a real bargain with the price paid for Manchester United.

Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, comes from an Arsenal-supporting family and is a friend of the club's deputy chairman, David



Dein. However sentiment showed no place in business as it emerged that Carlton had already held talks with Arsenal's arch rivals Tottenham Hotspur but could not strike a deal.

Liverpool and Leeds United were also at the centre of bid rumours and Aston Villa confirmed that it is talking to "a communications firm".

Arsenal is controlled by four directors who hold 70 per cent of the shares. Green may be happy with a stake in the club

and a seat on the board, so gaining a seat at the negotiating table as the Premiership works out how it will divide up its lucrative TV rights after the current deal with BSkyB runs out in 2001.

Arsenal fans showed mixed reactions to the Carlton move. Many were sad that the club might sell out but felt that a deal was inevitable. Lynette Dowden, a student from Hockley, near Southend, who was queuing outside the Arsenal's Highbury ground for a tour yesterday, said: "I suppose now Manchester United have done it, we have to as well. But it's all money these days, it's not the football that matters any more."

Another fan, Shelley Johnson, from Braintree in Essex, said: "I don't particularly like it but if Manchester United get all this money from Sky they might run away with everything. We've got to compete."

Shares soar, page 11 Carlton bid, page 52

Bank defies rates pressure

Shares and the pound fell sharply in the wake of the Bank of England decision to leave interest rates on hold at 7.5 per cent. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee defied growing pressure for a cut but reassured exporters that it would not raise interest rates again... Page 27

Weekend jail for 'minor offences'

Minor offenders could be allowed to keep their jobs and serve their sentences at weekends, according to a study on ways to relieve pressure on jails. The report says that rises in the prison population are "unsustainable"... Page 13

Liferaft drowning

A sixth-former drowned unnoticed under a liferaft at a public school while pupils above him continued with a sea-survival exercise supervised by Royal Navy specialists. One exercise was on how to recover a body, an inquest was told... Page 9

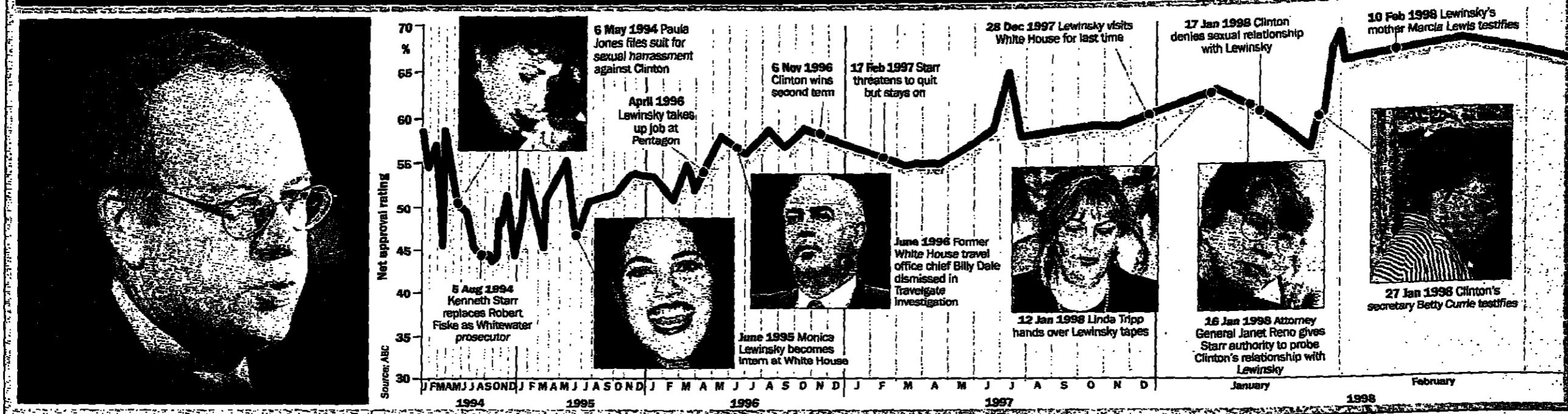
The Tiffany Setting More than a century ago, Tiffany invented an ingenious setting in platinum. Designed to showcase the quality and brilliance of our exceptional diamonds, this classic, six-prong setting remains the standard for engagement rings—a testament to the enduring value of Tiffany design. Tiffany diamond engagement rings from £250. TIFFANY & CO. SINCE 1837 LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET W1 0171-409 3790 HARKODE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE 0171-730 1234

CRICKET 49 Atkins wood by South Africa

Arabic text at the top of the page



FROM WHITEWATER SCANDAL TO DISGRACE IN THE WHITE HOUSE: HOW STARR'S INQUIRY



That woman ... and fatal miscalculation

President Clinton has been on the brink, starting into the political gloom many times before, but has always somehow defied the odds and leapt to safety. Now Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, has pushed him to the biggest drop of all. Soon we will know if there is an escape route for the Clinton presidency.

As he teeters there, he may be reflecting on how it is that he finds himself in this pretty pass. After all, so many times we have seen him land on his feet, give that famous smirk and walk away, his troubles apparently behind him.

It has been a long road to this point. In 1994, amid controversy over Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary's links to the shady dealings of an Arkansas financier, James McDougal, the President asked the Attorney-General, Janet Reno, to appoint a prosecutor to investigate. The Clintons had been partners with Mr McDougal in a property venture: Whitewater Development Corporation.

The very name Whitewater captured the imagination in a nation where Watergate was a word synonymous with corruption. But the investigation soon lost all but the most dedicated students. Nevertheless, the crucial factor was that the independent prosecutor had been established, and from that the unravelling to

Clinton's plight is the end of a long and tortuous ordeal. Damian Whitworth in Washington charts the bumpy episodes which have brought him to the edge

PRESIDENT ON THE PRECIPICE

potential catastrophe could begin. In August 1994 the prosecutor was replaced by Kenneth Starr, a high-flying Chicago lawyer and former Solicitor-General who was initially regarded favourably by the White House.

Earlier that summer, however, Mr Clinton had been hustled to the edge of one of those precipices by another force. In May, Paula Jones, a former clerk, had filed a suit for sexual harassment claiming that, one afternoon when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas, she had been taken to his room by a state trooper and Mr Clinton had made a sexual advance. The charge was dismissed as "tabloid trash" by the President's lawyer, and James Carville, his skilful adviser, had dismissed her claims with typical venom. "Drag a \$100 bill through a trailer park and there's no telling what you'll find," he observed.

The following summer another woman came into the President's life. In June 1995 Monica Lewinsky, then 20,

arrived in the White House as an unpaid trainee. Mr Starr, inching forwards with an investigation into complicated and age-old financial affairs, could not have dreamed that he would end up questioning her about the details of sex acts she had performed with the President in the Oval Office.

In 1996 the investigation was broadened to include Travelgate, the accusations that seven members of the White House travel office were dismissed by the Clintons on trumped-up charges so that they could be replaced with cronies of the couple. Mr Starr also began investigating Filegate in which Mrs Clinton's billing records from the Rose Law Firm in Arkansas, which had been sought by Mr Starr for two years, mysteriously reappeared on a White House table.

In April 1996, Ms Lewinsky took a new job at the Pentagon and made a new friend, Linda Tripp. Over the following months she would be logged 37 times making visits to the

White House. In November, Mr Clinton defeated Bob Dole to sweep back into the White House as the first Democrat since Roosevelt to win a second term. The Republicans still controlled Congress but the economy was strong.

There had been convictions from Mr Starr's investigation, but the public seemed to be bored with the whole affair. In February 1997, Mr Starr said he was stepping down to take a job at a law school. But he quickly changed his mind.

In January this year depositions in the Paula Jones case began after the Supreme Court rejected the White House's claims that it should be delayed until the President left office. The nation was agog at the prospect that the President would have to reveal whether he had a distinguishing mark on his penis.

One of those who completed an affidavit for the Jones case saying she did not have sex with the President was Ms Lewinsky. Two days later, with a little help from Vernon Jordan, Mr Clinton's bosom

buddy, she was offered a job at Revlon in New York. Three days after that, Linda Tripp, who had been such a good listener, revealed why as she turned over 20 hours of surreptitiously taped conversations between the two.

Suddenly Mr Clinton's world speeded up. On January 16, Janet Reno secretly gave Mr Starr the authority to investigate the Lewinsky relationship. The next day Mr Clinton, who a few months earlier had been close to reaching an agreement with Paula Jones involving damages, gave a six-hour deposition which included a denial of sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky. His testimony was peppered with such phrases as "I don't recall".

The same day, January 17, Matt Drudge, a gossip columnist on the Internet, told the world about Ms Lewinsky and a feeding frenzy began. It was more than a week before Mr Clinton said he did not have sexual relations with "that woman". And over the next few weeks, as Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, testified before the grand jury for six hours and Betty Currie, the President's secretary, was among his staff hauled in to explain Ms Lewinsky's frequent visits to the Oval Office, he held firm.

Kathleen Willey, a former White House volunteer, claimed on television in March she was groped by Mr Clinton, but then the Paula Jones case was dismissed by a federal judge.

But in July came a thunderbolt for Mr Clinton. Mr Starr issued a subpoena to make him testify. Then on July 28 Ms Lewinsky was offered broad immunity from prosecution in return for her full story in front of the Grand Jury. The next day Mr Clinton agreed to testify voluntarily.

Last month, 11 days apart, the two former intimates told the grand jury what had happened in the Oval Office. Ms Lewinsky said nothing publicly. Mr Clinton went on television the same day to admit that he had had a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was "not appropriate" and "wrong".

But the most brilliant politician of his generation made a possibly fatal miscalculation. He did not use the "S" word — sorry. He attacked Mr Starr. Republicans condemned him, and over the next few days so did Democrats.

He has offered profuse apologies over recent days. But the question is whether he has done enough to win the support of fellow Democrats if impeachment proceedings begin. Or whether there are now too many former friends in that chasing pack ready to give him that final push.



A disgraced Richard Nixon bids farewell to the White House after resigning in 1974

America relives the dark

Washington: It is only 24 years since the foundations of the United States were last shaken by the threat of impeachment against a President (Ian Brodie writes).

Richard Nixon chose to resign in disgrace rather than face an impeachment trial in the Senate for his role in the White House cover-up of a break-in at Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate office complex.

Once again the republic is approaching the same critical point, with the possible impeachment of President Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky case. Writing the Constitution, the Founding Fathers decreed that a President and other high officials could be impeached for "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours", followed by a trial in the Senate which, upon conviction by a two-thirds majority, would lead to removal from office.

Watergate was a much bigger criminal plot than the Lewinsky affair. Its goal was to bend the electoral process to Nixon's ends and to undermine his enemies. But there are analogies.

Nixon, like Mr Clinton, blamed his troubles

SHADES OF NIXON

Firm hand steadies financial tiller

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AS SCANDAL swirls around the White House, distracting the staff, the US Treasury building next door on Pennsylvania Avenue is an oasis of businesslike calm.

This is due in large part to its solid leadership under Robert Rubin, 60, President Clinton's Treasury Secretary, and a figure of probity who continues to command respect from all sides in Washington for his stewardship of the Administration's financial policy and in keeping watch over economic turmoil in Russia, Asia and elsewhere. It is a quality that could be of growing significance in the coming months if Mr Clinton's effectiveness continues to decline.

Educated at Harvard, Yale and the London School of Economics, Mr Rubin is one of those Democrats who ought by rights to be a Republican. He was formerly a power on Wall Street, where he was co-chairman of Goldman Sachs and on the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange. Yet he and his wife Judith have long been firmly rooted in Democratic issues and economic policy.

It is to Mr Rubin's credit, in needing good relations with the Republicans controlling Congress, that he was never regarded as an FOB — Friend of Bill — who socialised with the Clintons. Indeed, he was thought to have secured out of place when Mr Clinton, newly in office in 1993, invited his closest advisers to Camp David for a weekend of "bonding". Despite speculation about his future, Mr Rubin

of the International Monetary Fund. Rubin aides insist that Mr Clinton's famous ability to compartmentalise problems has meant that he has been fully focused on the foreign financial rollercoasters.

Still, Mr Rubin faces a fight with Congress in getting the \$18 billion (\$11 billion) that the Administration seeks for funding of the IMF, of which the US is the biggest shareholder.

Mr Clinton owes Mr Rubin a lot in terms of maintaining financial stability. The two men met when Mr Clinton was still Governor of Arkansas. The Clinton vision of policies struck a chord with Mr Rubin, who set to work among his Wall Street friends to raise money for the Clinton campaign. His reward in the first term was to oversee the White House National Economic Council.

Rubin: strongly rooted in Democratic policy

insists he is not leaving the Treasury and has no wish to go back to Wall Street even when he does.

Throughout the Lewinsky crisis, Mr Rubin has briefed Mr Clinton two or three times a week on Russia, Asia and the beleaguered lending policies



it's time we revealed all we've got to offer :  
email , dfax , 15mb of free web space , 24-hour helpline , LineOne™ content , games servers , games website , a quarterly magazine , in fact the list is endless . perhaps this explains why we're the number one internet service provider in the uk . so for your free 30-day trial cd and brochure , call 0800 458 9666 or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad , tear it out and send it to freepost demon ( yes , that's all you have to write ) . and get your kit off us .

**Demon Internet**  
more people get on with us  
**0800 458 9666**  
www.demon.net email : sales@demon.net

full.monty@demon

DISCOVER SE...  
of the g...  
days of War...  
Switzer...  
£118...  
For thousands...

سكنا من الاصل

UNCOVERED SEX IN THE OVAL ROOM AND TOOK THE PRESIDENT TO THE BRINK OF IMPEACHMENT

1. April 1998 Paula Jones suit against Clinton dismissed

2. June 1998 Lewinsky fires her lawyer William Ginsburg

3. July 1998 Clinton subpoenaed. Three secret service agents testify before Grand Jury

4. Sept 1998 Clinton says he has already expressed sufficient regret

5. Sept 1998 Starr submits report to House of Representatives as pressure mounts on Clinton to resign.

6. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

7. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

8. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

9. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

10. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

11. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

12. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

13. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

14. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

15. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

16. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

17. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

18. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

19. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

20. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

21. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

22. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

23. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

24. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

25. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

26. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

27. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

28. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

29. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

30. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

31. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

32. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

33. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

34. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

35. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

36. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

37. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

38. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

39. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

40. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

41. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

42. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

43. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

44. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

45. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

46. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

47. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

48. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

49. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

50. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

51. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

52. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

53. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

54. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

55. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

56. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

57. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

58. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

59. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

60. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

61. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

62. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

63. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

64. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

65. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

66. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

67. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

68. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

69. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

70. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

71. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

72. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

73. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

74. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

75. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

76. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

77. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

78. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

79. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

80. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

81. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

82. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

83. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

84. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

85. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

86. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

87. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

88. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

89. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

90. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

91. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

92. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

93. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

94. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

95. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

96. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

97. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

98. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

99. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

100. Sept 1998 Clinton ally Joseph Lieberman slams Clinton for "immoral behaviour."

of the generation's most brilliant leader



Bill Clinton leaves Washington earlier this week for fundraising rallies in Florida

Comeback Kid plots moves in last chance saloon

BY BRONWEN MADDOX WHEN Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, deposited the 36 "boxes of dynamite" on the steps of the Capitol, he legally transferred authority for the investigation to Congress.

Congress studies 'dynamite boxes'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

Members of the House of Representatives yesterday discovered that they could operate at "super-fast-track" speed, as one put it.

STRATEGY

his aides and lawyers were trying to map out a strategy for the comeback of his life.

IMPEACHMENT

The resolution would transfer official custody of Mr Starr's material to the Judiciary Committee.

Allies and enemies line up to assist or condemn

BY IAN BRODIE

IF THE President resigns or is forced out of office, the Constitution requires that he be succeeded by his Vice-President who, in turn, picks his own Vice-President, who must then be approved by a vote of Congress.

WHAT THEY SAID

- "His answer was that 'No, there were no surprises'" Tom Daschle, leader of the Senate Democrats, on Mr Clinton's reply when asked if there were any new and damaging revelations yet to surface

days of Watergate lies

on outside "savage destroyers and haters" out to get him. Hillary Clinton has complained of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" against her husband.

World Offers. Flight prices from: Switzerland £116 rtn, South Africa £365 rtn, Cyprus £159 rtn. For thousands of World Offers call us now on: 0345 222111 Book by 30th September '98.



"A MODERN MASTERPIECE  
...AS POWERFUL, DEVASTATING, MEMORABLE  
AND MOVING AS MOVIES GET" ★★★★★  
Jan Freed, EMPIRE



A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM

tom hanks

# saving private ryan <sup>15</sup>

edward burns matt damon tom sizemore

the mission is a man

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENT AN AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH MUTUAL FILM COMPANY  
TOM HANKS "SAVING PRIVATE RYAN" EDWARD BURNS MATT DAMON TOM SIZEMORE PRODUCERS BONNIE CURTIS AND ALLISON LYON SEGAN  
JOHN WILLIAMS COSTUME DESIGNER JOANNA JOHNSTON FILM EDITOR MICHAEL KAHN A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER TOM SANDERS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JANUSZ KAMINSKI A.S.C.  
PRODUCED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG & IAN BRYCE AND MARK GORDON & GARY LEVINSOHN WRITTEN BY ROBERT RODAT DIRECTED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

DREAMWORKS PICTURES AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT DOLBY DIGITAL DVD SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE AT WWW.UFP.COM LEAD OFFICIAL DVD BOOK PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN JDDJ UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

At cinemas everywhere today

CHECK LOCAL PRESS FOR DETAILS OR CALL 0800 192 192

تذكرنا من الاصل



1520 10/1/98

Hillary Clinton does not plan to forgive publicly her husband's worst infidelity, writes Bronwen Maddox

# First Lady seeks life after White House

THROUGH her husband's moment of crisis, Hillary Clinton is sticking doggedly to business as usual, with an exhausting programme involving worthy causes, which may prove not just a welcome distraction but a shrewd foundation for a political career of her own after the President leaves the White House.

But the First Lady, who has pointedly been absent from the President's side during all his apologies for his affair with Monica Lewinsky, has no plans to tell the nation that she has forgiven him, aides say.

Her only public comment on the trauma of her husband's confession was a terse "I'm doing fine", delivered at a brisk walk during last week's trip to Russia and Ireland. She has made clear through friends that she "believes in her marriage", but also that, out of her husband's long history of infidelity, his seduction of the White House



trainee is the most serious test the marriage has faced. Mrs Clinton's public demonstrations of support were crucial in helping her husband to retain the backing of ordinary Americans when he admitted an affair with the Arkansas singer, Gennifer Flowers, and in January, when he denied an affair with Ms Lewinsky. Later today

## CAREER

Mrs Clinton will appear at an Irish-American function at the White House together with her husband, and will introduce him. Officials expect the reception to be a relaxed event, as upbeat as conceivable in the circumstances, as many of the guests are old friends, and as it follows on the heels of the President's rapturous welcome in Ireland.

Last night, she was due to introduce her husband at a Democratic fund-raising event. Aides were not expecting that she would use the occasion to make an explicit appeal for support for the President. Otherwise Mrs Clinton is occupying herself with her own schedule of favourite causes. Yesterday, in the White House East Room, she hosted a function to raise awareness of colon cancer, and to promote partnerships

between the public and private sectors in treating it.

Katie Couric, the NBC network's star interviewer, who recently lost her husband to the disease, was among the guests, as was Ellen Levine, editor-in-chief of *Good Housekeeping*.

There is growing speculation that Mrs Clinton will seek a political career of her own after her husband leaves the White House — whether in 2000 at the end of his term, or earlier through abrupt resignation or impeachment.

Her pet projects — with the emphasis on women's issues, health and education — the only political activity for an unelected First Lady which Americans could comfortably contemplate, could yet provide her with a springboard into politics as her husband leaves the stage.



Hillary Clinton stood by the President after the Gennifer Flowers affair, but is now keeping herself busy and has pointedly been absent from his side during all his apologies for his affair with Monica Lewinsky

## How many of his men will stand by the President?

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THOSE who stood by Richard Nixon, and conspired with him, became known as all the President's men. Who will stay with Bill Clinton in his time of peril?

Some old-timers have already jumped ship or signalled their intention of doing so. George Stephanopoulos, so close to the President that he sometimes held his coat, did not sign up for a second term as political counsellor and adviser. Instead he opted for more lucrative fields as a television commentator and lecturer at Columbia University. Judging from some of his harsh public advice to Mr Clinton, he is glad to be out of it all.

Mike McCurry, the presidential press secretary, is also departing for greener pastures after four years of jocular banter with White House reporters who still admire his capacity for keeping his patience and dignity intact. They wonder how much he knew of the Monica Lewinsky affair when he was stonewalling about it. Certainly he had his suspicions, as he let slip one day early on when he admitted that, if there were a simple explanation for the Clinton-Lewinsky relationship, he would already have given it.

It is not unusual for administration officials to slip away in the closing years of a second term. By keeping to this tradition, Mr McCurry can expect to cash in on his high profile among the many Washington firms of lobbyists looking for people with clout. He will be replaced in the hot seat by his deputy, Joe Lockhart, who has admitted: "Most of my friends think I'm absolutely out of my mind."

Perhaps the most loyal of the Clinton loyalists is Bruce Lindsey, an astute, low-profile lawyer who has been with the President since the early days

## OLD ALLIES DEPART

in Arkansas. Known as the ultimate fixer, he has denied allegations that he was sent out to persuade women not to speak of their sexual relations with Mr Clinton.

Mr Lindsey came to the attention of Kenneth Starr during the Whitewater phase of his investigation. Mr Lindsey denied any illegality, but there is speculation in Washington that he could fall foul of Mr Starr again in the Lewinsky case.

Paul Begala will probably be with Mr Clinton, in a phrase used by the President, "until the last dog dies". Officially a White House counsellor, Mr Begala was on hand to adjust the President's lapel microphone as he prepared to make his inadequate *mea culpa* speech last month. Mr Begala insisted for seven months that President Clinton had told the truth when he denied sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky. Now, for all the egg on his face, Mr Begala is staying on.

So is Rahm Emanuel, senior adviser to the President and another who publicly denied that there was any linguistic evasiveness in Mr Clinton denying he had "sexual relations" with Ms Lewinsky, only to discover that it excluded oral sex in Mr Clinton's view.

One official who has expressed an interest in leaving is Erskine Bowles, the courtly Southern banker who is White House Chief of Staff. For now, though, he is apparently staying, though one cannot imagine him wanting to emulate Alexander Haig, the final Chief of Staff during Watergate who assumed many reins of power as Nixon fell apart.

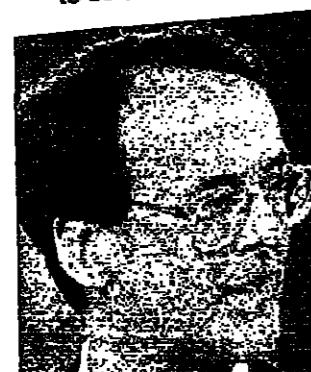
Most of my friends think I'm absolutely out of my mind?



Stephanopoulos: glad to be out of the fray



McCurry: departing with dignity intact



Bowles: has expressed an interest in leaving



Lindsey: most loyal of Clinton benchmen

IF YOUR BUSINESS LACKS YOUNG BLOOD,  
IF NOTHING ELSE WILL DO, AND IF YOU CAN TRAIN THEM,  
MAYBE YOU NEED...

# NATIONAL TRAINESHIPS



Every year, a dynamic group of school leavers are released into the business community looking for work-based training. Hand-picked and trained by you, and backed up by your local TEC, they'll propel your business into the next millennium. In a training campaign designed by your industry, the

enthusiasm and dedication of these recruits will secure them relevant workplace skills to NVQ level 2. For more information contact them on 0345 665588 quoting reference no. TMS/3/NT. They're waiting for your call.

NATIONAL TRAINESHIPS. GETTING SCHOOL LEAVERS INTO THE RIGHT COMPANY.

www.open.gov.uk/dtaa/ntr/ntr.htm



# Ministers scrap EU scheme giving free beef to the poor

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**AS SCHEME** that gave the poor and homeless free supplies of meat from the European Union beef mountain has been axed by the Government.

Thousands of the most needy have eaten the cans of rich steak stew since the EU Food Surplus Scheme was set up in 1987. But after complaints from some char-

ities that the scheme was bureaucratic and costly to operate, the Government has decided to end the handout from next year.

The Tories protested that the poor would lose out and suggested that the scheme was being abolished because of the budget cuts that the Treasury has demanded at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The scheme, dubbed the Food for the Needy scheme, was designed as a way of helping the poor while

reducing the EU beef mountain. This is created when Brussels intervenes in the market and buys beef to keep prices high.

Each member state is allowed a certain amount of beef to give to those people who otherwise could not afford the meat. This prevents the beef market being distorted.

Anyone who is homeless or destitute, or receiving income support, family credit, disability work-

allowance, or living in a welfare hostel is eligible to have between 12 and 24 free cans a year.

Although the take-up differs each year depending on how much beef is available, an average of 60,000 people benefit from the free food, which is worth some £10 million each year. This year ten million cans are expected to be distributed (about 3,000 tonnes of beef).

The Government pays for the beef to be processed and canned. It

is then distributed by charities and local community groups.

Jeff Rooker, the Junior Agriculture Minister, announced the end of the scheme in a little-noticed part of July's Comprehensive Spending Review. "We have been disappointed in the uptake of this scheme and we know that charitable organisations distributing beef have found the rules overly bureaucratic," he said.

Tim Yeo, the Shadow Minister

for Agriculture, said he was appalled to hear that Britain would be the first member state to scrap the scheme. He suspected that it had been scrapped as a result of cost-cutting demanded by the Treasury and wrote yesterday to Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, demanding its reinstatement.

Robin Brooks, sales and marketing director for H.L. Foods, which processes and cans about a fifth of all the beef in the scheme, said: "I

am absolutely amazed. They say it is being scrapped because there is no demand but that is rubbish. Without the scheme some [processing] firms might close."

But the Salvation Army, one of the biggest charities to distribute the beef, said it did not object. A spokesman said the scheme had been expensive and inefficient to run because charities had to pay for its administration, transport and storage costs.

## Pro-hunting alliance spreads its rural roots

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Countryside Alliance, which brought 250,000 people on to the streets of London last March to defend hunting, retained its rural mission to champion the rural way of life.

The defence of country sports will still be a central concern of the alliance, but equal emphasis will be given to building links with other countryside groups and to winning support and sympathy among urban voters.

Peter Voute, the alliance's executive director, said that a roadshow would visit 20 venues this month, starting this Sunday at the Hampshire Country Sports Day at Alresford.

A new eight-point manifesto was adopted unanimously at a meeting this week of delegates from its 14 regional branches. Among its aims are to "preserve the freedoms of country people and their way of life," to "lead campaigns for country sports, their related trades and activities, and the countryside," and to "co-operate closely with other organisations to promote and protect the rural way of life."

The relaunch comes after several months of turmoil which culminated at the end of July in the departure of the alliance's recently appointed chief executive, Edward Duke.

# Army patrols in Belfast to end

Government starts demilitarisation to encourage the IRA to hand in its arms, reports Martin Fletcher



Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president, and Richard McAuley, his party colleague, leaving Stormont yesterday

THE Government is planning swift and extensive demilitarisation in Northern Ireland to encourage the IRA disarmament that must start soon if the peace process is to succeed.

As David Trimble and Gerry Adams yesterday heralded a new era of co-operation with the first face-to-face meeting between Unionist and republican leaders since 1922, the Royal Ulster Constabulary announced that all army patrols in Belfast are to cease from this weekend.

With the security threat now greatly reduced, sources said other steps included base closures across the Province and the deployment of troops away from those nationalist areas where they are no longer necessary. The actual withdrawal of several hundred of the nearly 18,000 troops in Northern Ireland is also understood to be imminent, and Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC's Chief Constable, signalled that more may follow.

Unionists will not accept Sinn Fein in the Province's new government this autumn without some prior decommissioning. "There's much to-ing and fro-ing going on at very high level to see what might be offered to get the IRA moving towards some sort of gesture," one official said. "Nobody in

Dublin, Washington or London accepts Sinn Fein equating IRA-held weapons with British Army-held weapons," said another. "At the same time a reduction in tensions makes it easier for all sides to reduce the amount of armaments they claim are necessary for self-defence."

Mr Trimble's historic meeting with Mr Adams at Stormont was unthinkable until very recently, and heralded the end of the long Cold War between Unionism and republicanism. Mr Trimble still declined to shake the Sinn Fein president's hand, but called the encounter "civilised and workmanlike" and said he was "encouraged to hope that things will happen". Mr Adams called the meeting "businesslike, positive and cordial". He praised Northern Ireland's new First Minister as "a man I can do business with" and "the only person in the Ulster Unionist Party who could have brought that party as far as he's brought it".

Mr Adams said he raised the issue of disarmament himself during the 45-minute meeting. He had emphasised Sinn Fein's "genuine and positive and serious commitment" to implementing the Good Friday peace accord in its entirety, and understood Mr

Trimble's difficulties with hardline Unionists, but insisted he "could not deliver IRA decommissioning" unless the causes of conflict were removed. He told Mr Trimble "we had to find ways for me to help him and for him to help me". Mr Trimble spoke of a

"chicken and egg problem we have to solve".

He said he was satisfied that Mr Adams recognised the need for progress on disarmament, emphasised that nobody was being asked to "surrender or in any way feel humiliated", and hinted that

he had a solution in mind when he said a press conference was not the best place to discuss such a thing.

Both men's accounts of the meeting were remarkable for the absence of the enmity that had previously characterised their relations. Mr Adams

described Mr Trimble as "a man I can do business with, a man I have to do business with and a man I will do business with because this is much more important than the personalities involved... This is about our children and our future".

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ex-spy wins new chance of legal aid

Lawyers for the former MI5 spy David Shayler yesterday won leave to challenge a refusal of legal aid for his battle to avoid being extradited from France. Mr Shayler, 32, was arrested in Paris last month at Britain's request after he claimed to have evidence of malpractice within MI5. He faces charges under the Official Secrets Act.

The deputy chief clerk at Bow Street Magistrates' Court refused an application for legal aid in a hearing last month but in the High Court Mr Shayler's counsel, Leon Daniel, argued that the clerk made a "misdirection in law".

#### GP practice plea

Hospital-based training methods for GPs, implemented in the 1970s, are putting off potential recruits, according to a study today in the *British Medical Journal*. With about 1,000 posts empty, the study says trainees would feel less daunted if they spent at least three years in a practice.

#### Heads' pay call

Head teachers demanded a 17 per cent pay rise yesterday, saying that current salary levels were responsible for a shortage of headship candidates, especially in primary schools. The Department for Education and Employment promised action to stimulate recruitment.

#### M & S peer dies

Lord Marks of Broughton, grandson of the founder of Marks & Spencer, has died aged 78, the family's solicitor said. The peer, thought to have owned a £30 million stake in the store chain, leaves a widow, Marina, and three children by his first wife. He had been married five times.

#### Skydiver's baby

Penny Roberts, the paralysed skydiver, has given birth to a 6lb boy. Airedale General Hospital in West Yorkshire said the mother and Peter, born three weeks prematurely, were "fine". A week ago Bradford Council dropped its threat to take the child away from Miss Roberts, 35.

## Branson teams up with balloon rival

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

RICHARD Branson teamed up yesterday with Steve Fossett, his former rival, to pursue their shared dream of becoming the first people to fly around the world in a balloon.

The businessman, whose last attempt was scuppered when his balloon took off without him, invited the American adventurer to join him after his vessel ruptured last month during a thunderstorm. They are planning to fly to Morocco in November.

with Per Lindstrand, the Swedish balloon manufacturer and Branson's co-pilot, for their fourth attempt.

Mr Branson, 48, said: "Until this summer our main rival and I don't mind saying, a major thorn in our side, was Steve Fossett. This friendly rivalry has not only been during our global attempts but over the last decade and beyond."

Features, page 19

## Dolphin Bathrooms

### END OF SEASON SALE



### With Absolutely Everything Taken Care Of

The beauty of buying Dolphin is that it offers complete peace of mind because Dolphin take care of absolutely everything. The Dolphin service begins with a free no-obligation in-house design survey with plans created to your full satisfaction. Dolphin use only skilled craftsmen to construct your bathroom and ensure everything is taken care of, including the plumbing, electrics, joinery and even tiling and carpeting if required. Right now in the Dolphin Summer Sale there's 50% off every bathroom suite plus nothing to repay until 1999. It's all done to give you a beautiful bathroom at a truly great price. Only with Dolphin.



Installation by professional craftsmen, including joinery, electrics...

...plumbing, even tiling.

Nothing to repay until Spring 1999

All offers apply when you buy a Dolphin fitted bathroom

PLUS 7 PIECE LUXURY ACCESSORY SET WITH EVERY BATHROOM

PLUS TRADE-IN DISCOUNT on selected suites

PLUS UP TO £250 FREE DOLPHIN SHOWER OR 16 JET TURBO SPA

PLUS 50% OFF Every Bathroom Suite

PLUS THIS WEEK

### SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

#### NORTH

- BLACKPOOL 01253 763232
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625478
- BRISTOL 01274 824245
- CARDIFF 01495 347888
- CHESHIRE 01273 886784
- DONcaster 01302 336000
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- LEEDS 0113 272253
- LIVERPOOL 0151 232888
- LONDON 0181 877 8847
- MANCHESTER 0161 275288
- MIDLANDS 01273 887887
- NOTTINGHAM 0115 953 6780
- OXFORD 01865 828284
- SCOTTISH 0118 476 8833
- WARRINGTON 01925 342884
- WEDNESDAY 01924 888877
- WIMBORNE 01962 488888
- WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 488884
- WYBBURN 01825 488884
- YORK 01904 672888

#### MIDLANDS

- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888
- BIRMINGHAM 0121 625 3888

#### SCOTLAND

- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455
- GLASGOW 0141 203 8455

CALL FOR SHOWROOMS IN THE SOUTH, WEST SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. MON-FRI 10.00AM-6.00PM SAT 10.00AM-5.00PM SUN 11.00AM-5.00PM

Dolphin FITTED BATHROOMS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL SHOWROOM NOW OR CALL 0800 626717

24.7% APR VARIABLE All offers based on price list dated 25/05/98 and apply to U.K. mainland minimum orders of a fully fitted bathroom suite, comprising bath or shower cabinet plus washbasin and W.C. Excludes special building work. No other offers apply. These offers do not apply to Special Needs products by Dolphin. Typical Credit Example: Cash Price £400. Less deposit of £100. Sixty monthly repayments of £119 (inclusive). Total Credit Price £7280 including acceptance fee £20. Repayments are 6 months deferred, interest charged from opening of account. Subject to status. Written questions on request. \*Normal terms apply to cash customers.

مركز من الأهل



سماواتنا

SOMETIMES  
IT'S EASIER  
TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE  
YOU  
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD BYRES



A REGISTERED CHARITY

If you tell your  
girlfriend,  
will she think  
less of you?

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit our homepage at [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org). We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

**The Samaritans**

We'll go through it with you.



Everything you need is down at PC World

Sale



COMPAQ PC & FREE PRINTER

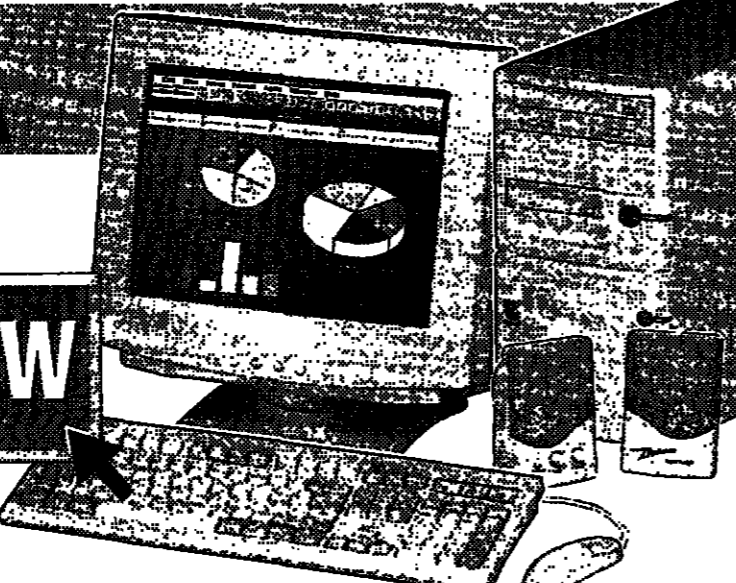
300MHz AMD-K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 2Mb S3 Virge graphics. 56k modem. 14" colour monitor. Includes Windows 98, Works, Encarta 98, MS Football and choose 7 other top software titles\*. Was £899. MODEL: 2255.

SALE PRICE INC VAT £849 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

233MHz Intel™ Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.

32Mb EDO RAM. 2.0Gb Hard Disk. 256k Cache Memory. 32 x multimedia. 2Mb graphics. 14" monitor. Microsoft Windows 98. MODEL: Contessa 233.

NEW £599 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*



LATEST PCs AT LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED (ALL INCLUDE VAT)

COMPUTERS SAVE UP TO £100

PORTABLES SAVE UP TO £100

PACKARD BELL 333MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Word, Money 98, CD-ROM, and more. MODEL: Chib 40. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £799

ACER 333MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 64Mb SDRAM. 4.0Gb Hard Disk. 3.125 Cache. 24 x multimedia. 48K AGP graphics. 56k modem. 17" monitor. Includes Windows 98, Word, Money 98, CD-ROM, and more. MODEL: Acer 17 333MT. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1299

COMPAQ 266MHz AMD-K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Word 97, Encarta 98, Works 4.5, Quicken 7, and more. MODEL: Presario 1234. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1499

HEWLETT PACKARD 266MHz AMD-K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Works, Money, Encarta 98, and more. MODEL: Pavilion £340. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £849

COMPAQ 300MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 64Mb SDRAM. 4.0Gb Hard Disk. 5.125 Cache. 32 x multimedia. 48K 2 x AGP AGP graphics. 56k modem. 17" monitor. Includes Windows 98, Word 98, Money 98, CD-ROM, and more. MODEL: Presario 200A. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1299

COMPAQ 233MHz AMD-K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Word 98, Money 98, CD-ROM, and more. MODEL: Presario 1024. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1699

ADVENT 333MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 32 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Lotus SmartSuite, Compaq's Encyclopedia and more. MODEL: 8570. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £997.58

PACKARD BELL 350MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 128Mb SDRAM. 6.4Gb Hard Disk. 2x DVD ROM. 17" monitor. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Word, Works, MSN WebMail, Media Studio Pro, Encarta 98, Free e-Mail and more. MODEL: Platinum 2010. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1643.83

ACER 233MHz Intel™ Pentium™ II Processor. 32Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb Hard Disk. 3.125 Cache. 24 x multimedia. 56k modem. Includes Windows 98, Word 98, Money 98, CD-ROM, and more. MODEL: Trill. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* £1899

UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* WITH NO DEPOSIT ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £250

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464. PC WORLD THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE. LISTING OF STORES IN BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, CHESTER, COVENTRY, DUBLIN, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, LONDON AREA, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, OXFORD, PERTH, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, STURKELEY, SWANSEA, THAMES VALLEY, WARRINGTON, WOLVERHAMPTON, YORK.

Viagra will cost the NHS £50m a year

Impotence drug available next week at £4.84 a pill, writes Ian Murray

VIAGRA is to be sold to the NHS at £4.84 a tablet when it is licensed next week. Pfizer, the manufacturer, said yesterday that this would make it one of the cheapest treatments for impotence and that the total bill to the NHS was unlikely to be more than about £50 million a year.

preparing to cope with the huge demand for the drug if, as expected, the European Commission licenses it for sale throughout the EU on Tuesday. "They have known it was coming for a long time, yet here we are within a few days of it being available and we have heard nothing. We have heard rumours that they are thinking of banning its use or only making it available after a patient has seen a specialist, but that would be dreadful. "We cannot have the message to go out to men that they are not deserving of treatment by the health service. Impotence is a subject that causes embarrassment but the Viagra discussion has made it acceptable. We can't have a situation where men summon up the courage at last to come and seek treatment and we tell them to go away because there is no money for it."

at the British Medical Association annual meeting in July that if the estimated 2.5 million impotent men in Britain were all prescribed Viagra it could cost the NHS up to £1 billion a year. "In fact only one in ten of these men are likely to present," he said, "and probably no more than 60 per cent of them would benefit from Viagra. I think that about £100 million a year is therefore a realistic estimate of the cost. "However, if the word goes out that the drug really works then many more men might come forward. The patients I have prescribed it for so far have all been delighted. I haven't had a failure yet and I think we are going to see an awful lot of people, including those who have tried other treatments like injections which they have not been able to get on with. "We just cannot know at this stage what the demand will be and we urgently need the

Government to give us national guidelines. We cannot as a profession be expected to take the responsibility for rationing a drug that we know works so well. "Pfizer said it was announcing the price of the drug "to shatter the prevalent myth" that it would cost £1 billion. Only about 1 per cent of those who were impotent were likely to seek treatment and Viagra would work in at best seven out of ten cases. Andy Burroughs, a spokesman said. "Patients with heart conditions would not be able to take the drug and since many of those who were impotent were elderly and taking medication to control heart conditions, Viagra would not be suitable for them. "In addition some of the men might prefer to use injections or vacuum pumps. We do not expect that those who do take Viagra will want more than four pills a month."

Supporters march for accused GP

By PAUL WILKINSON

SCORES of people marched yesterday in support of a family doctor accused of murdering a patient dying from cancer. The demonstrators gathered outside Newcastle Magistrates' Court to give encouragement to David Moor, who retired earlier this year from his practice in one of the city's poorer inner-city districts.



David Moor, who is accused of murdering a patient, arriving at court

Dr Moor, 51, who was making his first court appearance on the charge of murdering George Liddell, 85, in July last year, arrived by taxi to cheers from 200 placard-waving supporters. Several former patients stepped forward to shake his hand. During the three-minute hearing in which the magistrates committed the case for trial to Newcastle Crown Court, the doctor spoke only to confirm his name and address. He was granted conditional bail and was told to liaise with the probation service and co-operate in the preparation of medical reports. As he left court, he again shook hands with several former patients, but left without comment. His wife Sylvia said: "The reception he received at the court was very nice."

Until his retirement Dr Moor looked after 3,500 patients from his Wingham Road surgery in Fenham, Newcastle. The demonstration was organised by Fiona McAndrew, 31, a former patient who set up the Friends of Dr Moor campaign. Three years ago, Dr Moor controversially referred her for breast implant surgery on the National Health Service at a cost of £2,300. She said: "We want Dr Moor to know that everyone is behind him all the way. We want the charges dropped and will continue the fight to clear his name. He has always been there for his patients in the past and we want to return that support and show him how much we care. "We didn't want any sad faces at the march because we wanted Dr Moor to be uplifted by what he saw. It was an upbeat atmosphere but at the same time we have to balance that with the fact this is a very serious matter."

Doctor, doctor, waiting for treatment is no joke. Don't worry, with Abbey National's Private Healthcare if you fall ill you won't have to queue for treatment. Being ill isn't funny. Neither is having to wait several months for treatment. By taking out our private healthcare now you will avoid such a wait should you fall ill in future. And less waiting means less of the pain that can seriously affect your daily life. Surely it's a complicated process? Hardly. Our claims helpline can give the go ahead on most claims in just 15 minutes. But isn't private healthcare a luxury? We don't think so. In fact, you can discover how affordable your premium is by calling us free on the number below Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm. Or ask at any of our larger branches and talk to one of our advisers face-to-face. 0800 222 399 ABBEY NATIONAL Because life's complicated enough.

Private Healthcare. ABBEY NATIONAL. Because life's complicated enough. 0800 222 399. To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Details of the policy terms, conditions, restrictions and exclusions are available on request. Abbey National Healthcare, the Umbrella Group symbol and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Registered Office, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom. All policies are underwritten by Abbey National Healthcare Limited.

Pupil unno... surviv... Police hum... gunman a... triple shoo...

سكزا عن الأصل



سورة الاحقاف

cost the  
a year

# Pupil drowned unnoticed in survival class

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SIXTHFORMER drowned unnoticed under a liferaft at a public school while pupils above him continued with a sea-survival exercise supervised by Royal Navy specialists.

One exercise was on how to recover a body, an inquest was told yesterday. Nicholas Stafford, 18, lay trapped for up to 15 minutes, and no one noticed anything was wrong until his foot was seen protruding from under the raft in the swimming pool at Charterhouse School.

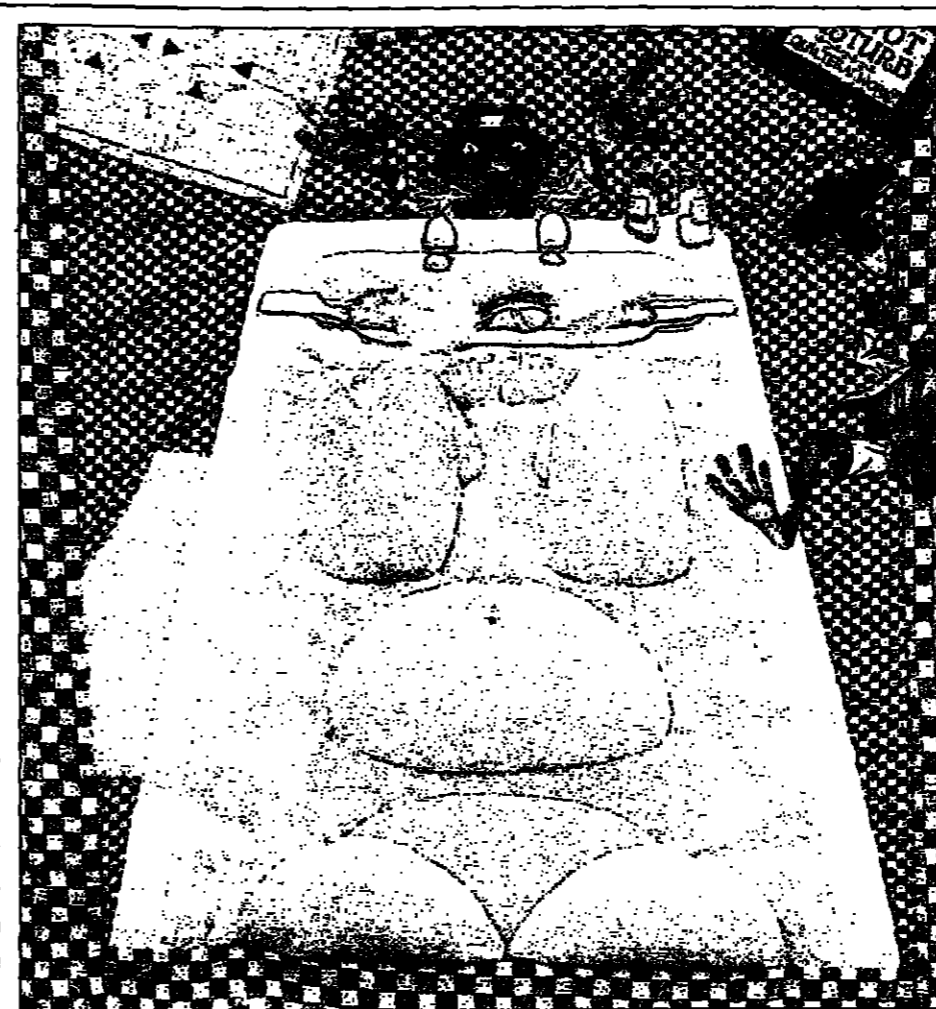
It is believed that he had become trapped while righting the 25-man liferaft after it had overturned. In a statement issued before the inquest, the student's parents, Colin and Evelyn Stafford, and sisters Rosemary and Elizabeth, from Epsom, Surrey, criticised safety standards at the school in

Godalming, Surrey, which charges fees of more than £13,000 a year. They said they wanted to ensure that survival drills and similar adventure exercises were made safer. The inquest at Guildford was told that the exercise on January 26 was under the supervision of a drill instructor, Petty Officer Russell Witcher, and Leading Airman Kevin Cousins, attached to HMS Sultan. Nikos Georgiakakis, a schoolmaster and Officer in Command of the school's Navy Cadets, was overseeing the exercise which he said encouraged team work and leadership. The cadets aged 14 to 18 were wearing trunks and rugby shirts under a survival suits and lifejackets. They had to jump into the pool and swim two lengths before Nicholas and another cadet were selected to right the raft.

Airman Cousins said that when Petty Officer Witcher asked him whether the water was "clear" once the raft had been righted, he called the all clear but had not gone underwater to check. The body lay undiscovered while the group carried on with further exercises, including how to recover a body from the water. Up to 15 minutes later, Airman Cousins spotted the pupil face up under the raft with his head wedged against the canvas. He was taken to the Royal Surrey County Hospital but died four days later without regaining consciousness. A 15-year-old, who had

helped the sixthformer to right the craft, said: "We were having trouble getting it to turn over. As it came over I was under it. I got a breath of air from an air pocket and struggled to get out. I panicked a bit." The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, added: "I assumed Nick got out the other way."

Chief Petty Officer Kieran Eagles, of the RN Survival Equipment Group, said that a person could have got under the raft after the post-righting check had been made. The athletic sixth-former was expecting top A-level grades in geography, biology and chemistry, had been promised a place at Bristol University. His father said that he was a very strong swimmer and was acknowledged as one of the fittest boys in the school. The inquest continues today.



A self-portrait bedspread by Gillian Banks won first prize at a quilting conference



Inspiration came to Mrs Banks in her bathroom

## Bathtime view has quilters in stitches

EYEBROWS were raised among the ladies who stitch and snip in the annual competition of the Quilter's Guild of the British Isles (Paul Wilkinson writes). Displayed among the 33 intricately patterned bedspreads was a self-portrait of a 50-year-old mother of three, naked in the bath.

But along with the eyebrows, Gillian Banks, from Durham, lifted the coveted Sue Ridgwell Bowl, awarded for the most popular piece of work at the conference. Pat Nichols, president of the guild, said: "It shows we are not all sitting in our rocking

chairs making traditional patterns by the fireside. Quilters have a fantastic sense of humour and 99 per cent of people at the meeting were in fits of laughter over this one." Suzy Barton, of *The Quilter* magazine, said: "I think it struck a chord because a lot of us are rather plump."

Mrs Banks, who teaches quilting professionally, said: "The theme at the meeting was *Aspects of Water* and it was being held in Bath. I was lying in my own bath, thinking of ideas, when this one came into my head. I knew it would cause a laugh."

or accused



Stafford: family concern on safety

# Police hunt for gunman after triple shooting

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ARMED police were last night hunting a wealthy car dealer who was on the run after a triple shooting that left one man dead and two other people seriously wounded.

Detectives are looking for John Piccolo, 51, whose former lover was injured and her new partner shot dead. Piccolo's son was later found sixty miles away with head wounds.

Martin Cass, a 23-year-old businessman, and Jane Smith, 26, were ambushed outside their home in the Essex village of Ford End, near Chelmsford, after they drove home from shopping on Wednesday evening.

Mr Cass was shot in the head at close range with a 12-bore double-barrelled shotgun and died in the driveway of the couple's end-terrace cottage. Ms Smith fled to the house next door but, police said, was pursued and shot in the chest and shoulder in her neighbour's sitting room. A shotgun was abandoned at the scene and the killer fled in a Volvo car with the lights out.

Her two daughters, aged 9 and 12, were in the rear seats of the car parked outside.

Sixty miles away and five hours later police discovered Darren Piccolo, 26, who is believed to have been shot first, hours earlier at his father's home on the 90-acre Freedom Farm in the Suffolk village of Dallinghoo near

Woodbridge. Detectives, alerted by colleagues in Essex, were watching from a distance, hoping to arrest Mr Piccolo if he returned, when they saw a car pull up at the house and pull away again moments later with Darren Piccolo inside. Neighbours of Mr Cass said Mr Piccolo had been stalking Ms Smith and in May police set up a road block in Ford End when he appeared to have broken a court injunction to stay a mile from the house the woman shared with Mr Cass.

Both Ms Smith and Darren Piccolo were under guard in separate hospitals yesterday as armed police searched for the missing man, supported by a helicopter. Darren Piccolo was said to be in a critical condition. Ms Smith was said to be in a comfortable condition.

Detective Superintendent Brian Storey, who is leading the investigation, said: "In my opinion this was a domestic entanglement and there is no other motive. My message to Mr Piccolo is to give himself up. I will meet him anywhere he wishes."

Police are waiting to interview the two girls. Detective Superintendent Storey said: "They presumably would have seen everything up to the point where their mother and the gunman went into the neighbour's house."

# Not touching a drop can be bad for you

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TEETOTALLERS are about twice as likely to suffer from ill health and psychological problems as moderate drinkers, according to a study published in *The Lancet* today. Even heavy drinkers are generally fitter and less prone to limiting illness.

The research, among 9,605 people born in Britain during March 1958, is one of the first to try to relate the effects of drinking on younger people. Earlier studies have tended to concentrate on people in middle age or later and there is little information about the lifetime characteristics of abstainers.

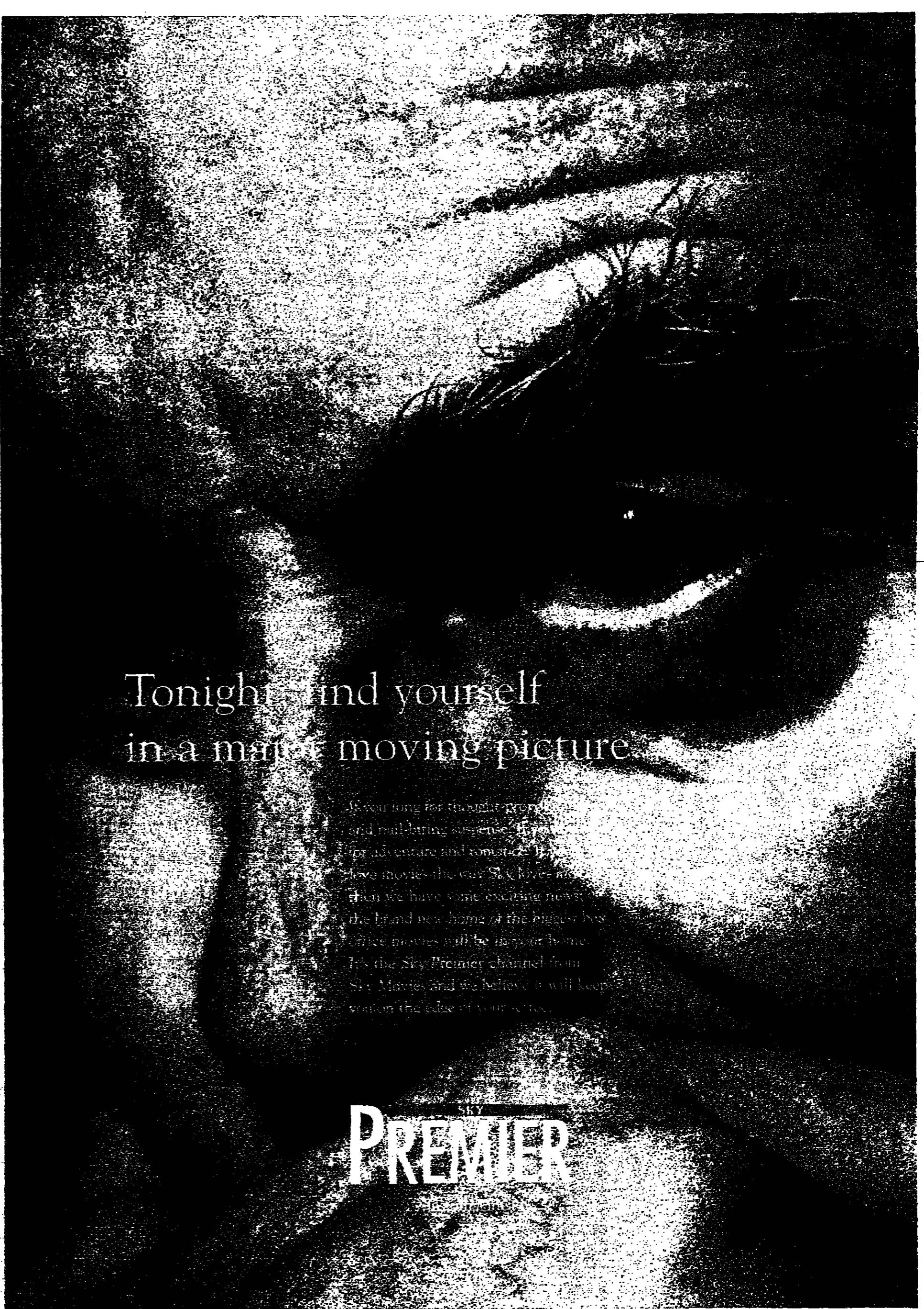
Women who consumed between three and ten pints of beer (or the equivalent) a week and men who drank between ten and 17½ pints a week were classified as "moderate drinkers" — although those levels go above the 14 units (seven pints) for women and 21 units

for men that are the medically recommended limits.

The researchers, from the Institute of Child Health in London and the Australian National University in Canberra, found that even "light drinkers" — women who drank no more than five units and men no more than ten units a week — were no healthier than the moderate group.

Checks were made to ensure that the poorer health of teetotalers was not due to past heavy drinkers giving up alcohol, nor that abstainers did not drink because of ill health in the first place.

The researchers suggested that abstainers and heavy drinkers may share common risk factors such as unemployment and financial hardship. Moderate drinking, in contrast, may have a protective effect on health.



Tonight... and yourself in a major moving picture

When you long for the excitement of... and nail-biting suspense... for adventure and romance... these movies the way... Then we have some exciting new... the brand new... of the biggest... these movies will be in your home... It's the Sky Premier channel from... Sky Movies and we believe it will keep... watch on the edge of your seat.

# PREMIER

0800 222 333  
ABBAY NATIONAL



THE WORLD'S FINEST  
 MENSWEAR DESIGNERS  
 ARE ON OUR  
 LOWER GROUND FLOOR.  
 DO ANYTHING  
 YOU CAN TO GET THERE.

Mens Designer Collections has now expanded to include more top designer names, like Gucci, Helmut Lang and Versace Jeans, Jil Sander and a new Prada boutique. There's also Body Zone, a new men's grooming area. Simply follow the signs to Knightsbridge.

**Harrods**  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NL. Tel: 0171-730 1234.



صكزا من الأهل

Take  
 Arsenal

Analysts pro  
 good season  
 media marri



# Takeover talk fuels Arsenal share boom

BY JASON NISSE AND RAYMOND SNOODY

ARSENAL shares soared £1,200 to £4,100 yesterday after the news that the North London club was in talks with Carlton Communications that could lead to a £250 million deal.

Trading in the shares, on the unregulated Ofex market, put a value of nearly £230 million on the club, which won the Premiership and FA Cup double last season. Carlton confirmed that the negotiations were at an early stage but might lead to a full-blown bid.

Earlier this week, when Carlton was playing down talk of a bid, Arsenal shares changed hands at £2,000. Two years ago they could be bought for £700.

The Carlton move led to a flurry of rumours about the burgeoning football sector. Pearson, the media group that owns the *Financial Times*, denied it was about to buy a club, while Granada, the makers of *Coronation Street*, was lending off suggestions it might bid for Liverpool, the third English club to have been invited, with Arsenal and



Manchester United, to join the European Super League.

Aston Villa, which nearly struck a deal with Mirror Group Newspapers two years ago, said that it had been in talks with media companies but these might fall short of an offer. There were strong rumours that Leeds Sporting, which owns Leeds United, might be about to strike a deal with Canal Plus, the French broadcaster that owns Paris St Germain.

Carlton's deal with Arsenal might still be some way from completion. The group, which owns Carlton TV in London and Central in the Midlands, wants to use Arsenal to secure rights for televising live games on its new digital television

Manchester United launched the world's first daily football club channel last night (Carol Midgley writes). MUTV will be broadcast on Sky, initially only on its new digital service, from 6pm to midnight, seven days a week for a monthly subscription of £4.99. Programmes will include cookery, aerobics and football tips for younger fans.

joint venture, ONDigital. The two are also looking at creating an Arsenal club television channel along the lines of the MUTV channel, launched last night, and the purchase of the rights of Arsenal's overseas games.

Michael Green, the founder of Carlton, has been a friend of David Dein, the deputy chairman of Arsenal, for more than 25 years. Mr Dein and Danny Fiszman, a fellow director, control 44 per cent of Arsenal shares, having bought into the club for only £250,000 in 1982. The Carr family, the former owner of the *News of the World*, owns 26 per cent.

Mr Dein has had talks with outside parties, including Ladbroke, the gaming and

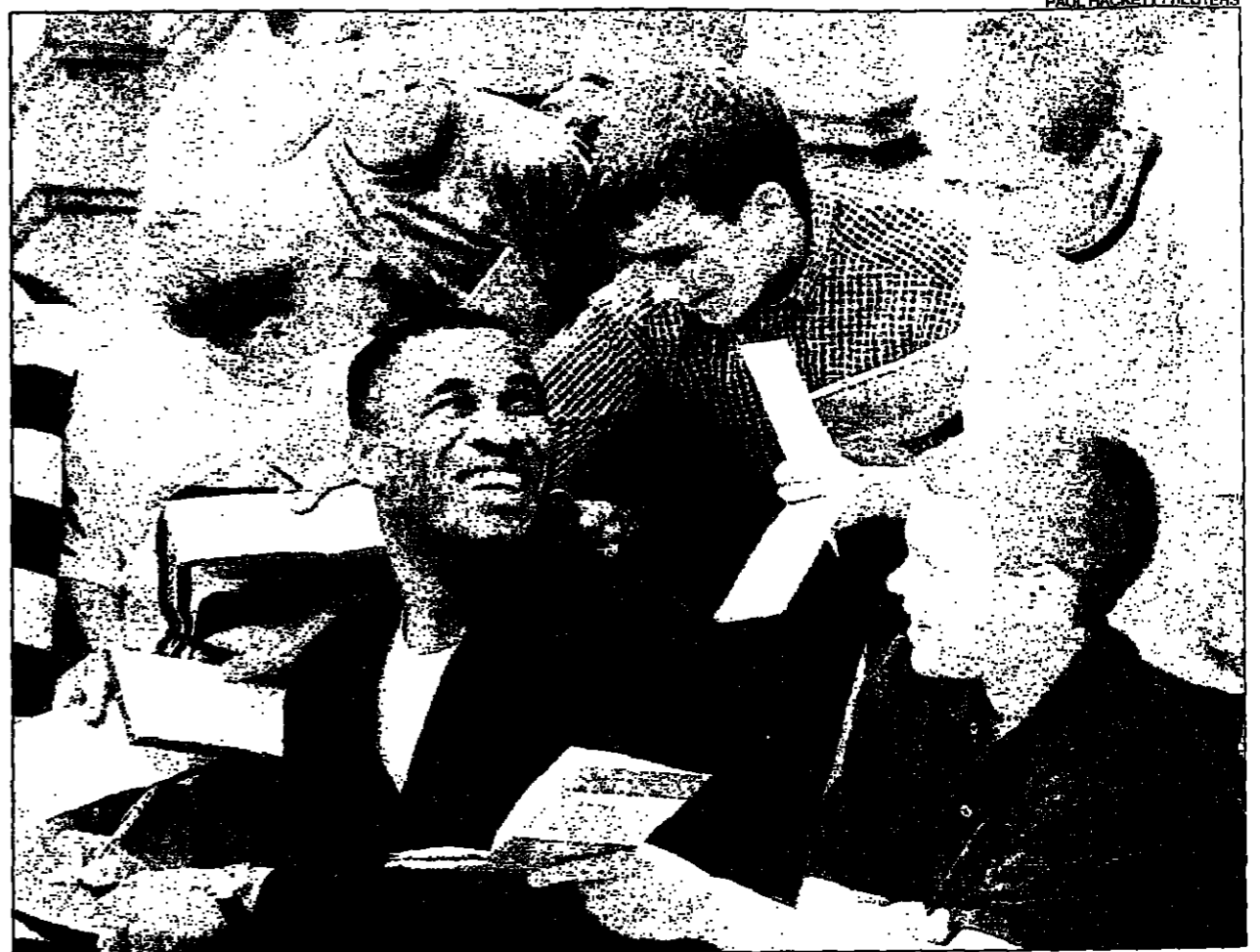
hotels group, about selling some of his shares in Arsenal. Two years ago he sold 3,000 shares to Fiszman for £4.35 million after holding talks with outside parties.

Carlton may stop short of making an offer for the company if it can buy a stake and take a seat on the board. But if it buys the entire Dein-Fiszman holding, City takeover rules mean it will have to make a bid for the whole company.

Mr Green's father was an Arsenal supporter, his brother David is a season ticket holder and the Carlton chairman has attended Arsenal games in the past.

Carlton, in a joint venture with the Mirror Group, was an unsuccessful bidder for the Premier League rights last time round. They were outbid by BSkyB, a venture in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake.

The contract runs out in 2001, when Mr Green's digital terrestrial television company — a joint venture with Granada — should be starting to make an impact.



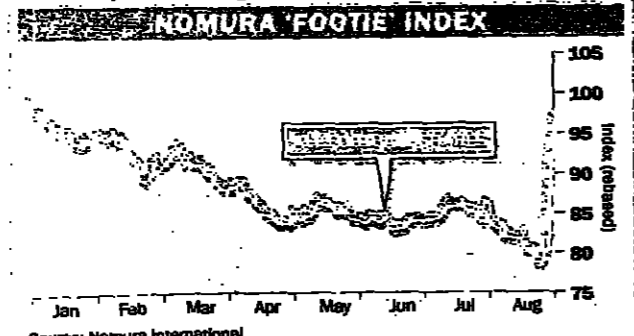
The Tottenham Hotspur striker Les Ferdinand signs autographs for young fans outside the planned FA Premier League Hall of Fame, after being chosen as one of the first six players to be featured there (John Goodbody reports).

Newcastle United's Alan Shearer was the only other Briton; others were Eric Cantona of France, Peter Schmeichel of Denmark, Gianfranco Zola of Italy and Dennis Bergkamp of Holland. A 19-man panel chaired by Sir Geoff Hurst

selected one player for each season since the Premiership started in 1992. Ferdinand, chosen for Newcastle, said: "It is a really great feeling." The hall is to open in March at London's former County Hall.

| SHARE OF THE ACTION |                                |                                 |                   |          |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|
|                     | Market capitalisation (£000's) | Share price start of season (p) | Current price (p) | % change | Current league position |
| Aston Villa         | 69,273                         | 525                             | 605               | 15       | 2                       |
| Charlton Athletic   | 12,339                         | 53                              | 61                | 15       | 10                      |
| Chelsea             | 132,668                        | 75                              | 85                | 13       | 18                      |
| Leeds               | 54,131                         | 12.5                            | 19                | 52       | 3                       |
| Leicester City      | 11,580                         | 33                              | 35                | 6        | 13                      |
| Manchester United   | 550,352                        | 358                             | 212               | -39      | 9                       |
| Newcastle United    | 97,403                         | 70                              | 68                | -3       | 19                      |
| Nottingham Forest   | 16,724                         | 40                              | 37                | -8       | 7                       |
| Southampton         | 13,056                         | 82                              | 48                | -42      | 20                      |
| Tottenham Hotspur   | 85,455                         | 60                              | 65                | 8        | 8                       |
| Arsenal*            | 229,600                        | £2800                           | £4100             | 67       | 5                       |
| Everton*            | 86,500                         | £1900                           | £1900             | 0        | 15                      |
| Liverpool*          | 145,035                        | £4000                           | £4500             | 13       | 1                       |
| West Ham United*    | 66,000                         | £300                            | £300              | 0        | 11                      |
| Birmingham City     | 15,500                         | 30                              | 31                | 3        | 1                       |
| Bolton              | 20,910                         | 19                              | 17                | -11      | 9                       |
| QPR                 | 4,553                          | 14                              | 12                | -14      | 23                      |
| Sheffield United    | 10,000                         | 20                              | 20                | 0        | 8                       |
| Sunderland          | 40,750                         | 445                             | 500               | 12       | 2                       |
| West Brom Albion    | 8,090                          | 9000                            | 11000             | 22       | 7                       |
| Middlesbrough       | 8,843                          | 0.625                           | 0.75              | 20       | 13                      |
| Preston Nth End     | 7,638                          | 390                             | 380               | -3       | 2                       |
| Swansea             | 1,568                          | 1                               | 0                 | -100     | 20                      |
| Colt                | 99,750                         | £220                            | 21000             | -5       | 2                       |
| Heart of Midlothian | 9,412                          | 95                              | 93                | -2       | 4                       |

\*Traded only on matched bargain basis



## Analysts predict good season for media marriages

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND DANIEL MCGRODY

EVERY football club in the English Premiership will have a media partner within five years. City analysts predicted yesterday as shares in top sides soared.

The sudden flurry of interest has been triggered by BSkyB's £623 million agreed bid for Manchester United. As the price of football stock jumped 10 to 15 per cent and millions of shares changed hands, analysts said that buyers would initially focus on the big clubs. But with expanding cable services and this year's digital revolution bringing many more television channels, even smaller clubs were likely to become targets for firms wanting to broadcast their games to local fans.

David Brooks, leisure analyst at Nomura International, said: "It is almost inevitable that, in five years' time, practically every football club in the Premiership will be aligned with a media partner."

Nick Batram, a football analyst at Greig Middleton, said: "No one wants to be left behind. Football and television was always going to be a match made in heaven and the only surprise is that it took so long. The first deal was the so long. The most successful glamour club and the richest TV network."

"There will be a few rushed, shotgun marriages next with partners not so attractive, but television does not want to miss out and the clubs are looking to link up with the richest suitors."

"The future is pay per view and European leagues. None



When you're buying something as important as a new home, you deserve the best service there is.

THE CHARLES CHURCH *Plus* PROMISE guarantees that you get it.

- + Everyone at Charles Church is committed to giving you the highest level of help, advice and support, from the first time you visit us.
- + We guarantee a date when your home will be ready for you to move into. And we'll give you compensation if it isn't.
- + We guarantee to replace or repair any part of your new home if it proves not to be up to scratch. Immediately. No quibbles.
- + We guarantee we'll be there, if you need us, on our 24 hour Hotline.
- + And we guarantee that we'll look after you long after you've moved in. We'll even give you preferential treatment for your next Charles Church home.

For information about current and forthcoming developments, please call 01276 808080. Or visit our web site at [www.charles-church.co.uk](http://www.charles-church.co.uk)

Charles Church House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3TU.

**CHARLES CHURCH**  
QUALITY HOMES OF CHARACTER



# CURRY'S

## BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TV, VIDEO AND HI-FI STORES



### THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY FROM SONY

## WIDESCREEN TV

The format of the future. Widescreen provides a more natural viewing angle.

Come to Curry's for the latest demonstration of the very best in widescreen and viewing experience.

Feel part of the action with the development of Dolby Digital Surround Sound in your living room.

OVER **1000** PRICES REDUCED THROUGHOUT THE STORE



**LOWEST PRICE EVER**

**SONY** 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

CURRY'S PRICE **£829**

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**TV/VIDEO PACKAGES SAVE UP TO £130**

**SONY** 25" TV/Video Package

25" Widescreen TV with Fastest 590cm visible screen size.

PLUS NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model 25K5770.

Was £979. CURRY'S PRICE **£689**

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**CD HI-FI SYSTEMS SAVE UP TO £100**

**EXCLUSIVE! FREE SONY HEADPHONES PLUS UP TO 2 FREE CDs WITH MANY HI-FI SYSTEMS**

By redemption. Ask for details.

**LOWEST PRICE EVER**

**SONY** CD Mini Hi-Fi with DJ Mix Facilities

Multiplay - plays up to 2 CDs.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

CURRY'S PRICE **£359.99**

**SONY** Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi

4 disc tray. 4 sound presets. Digital tuner. Model PM107.

NEW CURRY'S PRICE **£129.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** CD Hi-Fi with Turntable

Multiplay - plays up to 5 CDs. Model 2020. Was £299.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£249.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** CD Hi-Fi with Turntable

Model 2020. Was £299.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£249.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SAVE £20**

**SONY** 28" Widescreen TV

48cm visible screen size. SCART socket. Model 28W51.

CURRY'S PRICE **£449.99**

LARGER STORES ONLY

**SONY** 28" Widescreen TV with NICAM Stereo Sound

60cm visible screen size. Model 28W52. In-store Price £1249. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

CURRY'S PRICE **£699.99**

**SONY** 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

76cm visible screen size. Model 28W52. In-store Price £1249. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

CURRY'S PRICE **£50** **£1199**

**LARGE SCREEN TVs SAVE UP TO £70**

**SONY** 21" TV with Fastest 51cm visible screen size.

Model 21T3. Was £379.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£329.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**CINEMA SCREEN TVs**

**SONY** 41" Cinema Screen TV with NICAM Stereo Sound

103cm visible screen size. High contrast scratch-proof screen. Anti-reflective coating. Fastest with 400 programme memory. Model KP-4154. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

STAND OPTIONAL EXTRA CURRY'S PRICE **£1799**

**VIDEOS SAVE UP TO £80**

**SONY** 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

Auto set-up for easy installation. Model SLV730. Was £349.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£299.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** CD Hi-Fi with Turntable

Model X860. Was £499.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£449.99**

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

12 FREE CDs Ask for details.

**SONY** 25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV

59cm visible screen size. On-screen display for ease of use. Model KV25F3. Was £649.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£629.99**

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** 21" TV with Fastest 51cm visible screen size.

Model 21T3. Was £379.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£329.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** Long Play Video with VideoPlus and Automatic Tuning

Model SLV230. Was £219.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£199.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**MINIDISC SYSTEMS SAVE UP TO £100**

**FREE** MINIDISC SPINNER WITH ALL SONY MINIDISC HI-FI SYSTEMS

Ask for details.

**SONY** Mini Hi-Fi with Recordable MiniDisc and CD

30 watts (RMS) per channel. Model MDT313. Was £449.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£429.99**

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

FREE MINIDISC STARTER KIT Ask for details.

**SONY** 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastest 51cm visible screen size.

Model 21T4. Was £359.99. CURRY'S PRICE **£329.99**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** 41" Cinema Screen TV

116cm visible screen size. 100% digital scan for a flicker free image. Model KP-4654. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

CURRY'S PRICE **£2799**

**NEW DVD VIDEO PLAYER**

**SONY** DVD Video Disc Player

Variable speed slow motion. Model DVP-S215. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CURRY'S PRICE **£499.99**

**SONY** Recordable MiniDisc Player

Compatible with any Hi-Fi with an optical digital output. Model MDS-S2520. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

Ask for details.

CURRY'S PRICE **£229.99**

**PORTABLE TV & TV/VIDEO COMBINATIONS SAVE UP TO £30**

**SONY** 14" TV with Remote Control

34cm visible screen size. Easy to use on screen menu. Model KV14M1. SUPER VALUE CURRY'S PRICE **£179.99**

**SONY** 14" Colour Portable TV

34cm visible screen size. Easy to use on screen menu. Model KV14T1. CURRY'S PRICE **£199.99**

**GET READY FOR DIGITAL TV**

ALL TVs SOLD BY CURRY'S ARE COMPATIBLE WITH FUTURE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY\*

\*Subject to the purchase of a separate digital terrestrial receiver or digital satellite receiver and dish. Ask for details.

**SONY** DVD Video Disc Player

Variable speed slow motion. Model DVP-S215. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CURRY'S PRICE **£499.99**

**LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT**

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it. WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

ALL SUPERSTORES OFFER EASY PARKING LATE NIGHT SHOPPING AND SUNDAY OPENING.

**THE CHOICE FOR YOU**

- FINANCE** With instant budget financial check, you'll find the model that meets your current needs at Curry's. Including many exceptional value exclusive models and offers.
- DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION 7 DAYS A WEEK** On a wide range of products when you purchase before 6pm, all hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and most remote parts of Scotland. You can even receive moment-of-afternoon delivery or take it home now. Ask in-store for details.
- PLACE OF HIRE** Masters are Currys Service Agreement products up to 5 years. Set-up by expert engineers.
- DEPRECIATION RINGS** In the Superstores to help you choose exactly the right hi-fi or surround sound TV.
- DIGITAL COMPATIBLE** All TVs at Curry's are compatible to digital when it's time to purchase a decoder.
- IN HOME SAME DAY SERVICES** If you phone Currys Home Service and have your TV set up at a Curry's store.
- AWARD WINNING IN-STOCK REPAIR SERVICE** Open 7 days a week.
- REPAIRY GUARANTEE** With Currys Premier Advantage Card to make the shopping even easier. Ask for details.
- CHOOSE TO ORDER DIRECT** For direct, clearing delivery. Simply visit our website at [www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk) or call 01142 88811. Please note that delivery is subject to stock availability. Delivery charges from £2.95. Part of the Retail Ltd.

**APR 29.5%**

24% deposit of £99.99 12 monthly payments of £13.53. Total amount payable £165.99. INTEREST

20% deposit of £29.99 48 monthly repayments of £13.53. Total amount payable £248.43.

**EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS**

**HOW IT WORKS** Amount in interest free is repaid in full before (or with) the 9th, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' document on-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99.

**OTHER OFFERS** 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

**WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!** Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products. Management fees are included in the price. Simply take the voucher to any Curry's store to claim your discount. Give voucher number and product name. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing on-store offers. Not for use with other offers. Excludes the only 12 months interest free offer. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\* is not available on all products. Offer ends 31st August 1998. \*Ask for details.

Petty could at the

Satellite TV from direct broadcast

Spectacular bird makes golfer's

سكزا من الأهل



THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1998

# Petty criminals could go to jail at the weekend

MINOR offenders could be allowed to keep their jobs and serve their sentences at weekends, according to a study by MPs on ways to relieve pressure on Britain's jails.

The report from the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, released yesterday, says that rises in the prison population are "unsustainable" and up to a quarter of the 65,000 prisoners could have been given alternative sentences.

Weekend jail could be used for offenders convicted of petty crime or serious drink-driving offences. During the week they could work, train or look for jobs, but the candidates would have to come from stable backgrounds, it said.

Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada have schemes that allow some prisoners to go to work during the day and spend their nights and weekends in jail.

The idea was put to the committee in evidence by Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons. He argued that jails had spare capacity at weekends because prisoners went on home leave. The proposal was supported by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, but the Home Office said the plan would not relieve pressure.

Chris Mullin, the committee chairman, said yesterday that there were practical difficulties and weekend prison had a limited application. The report recognised that the prison

**Stewart Tendler reports on a study by MPs that examines ways to relieve overcrowding**

population had risen by more than half in five years and could reach 82,000 in the next seven years, he said. It emphasised the need for credible alternatives, which must work and be seen to work by the public.

"There are offenders for whom prison is the only appropriate penalty, but there are many people currently sentenced to imprisonment who could be dealt with more effectively and at far less expense by a non-custodial sentence," Mr Mullin said.

The bill for an average prison sentence was £24,271, compared with £1,770 to £3,500 for a community service order. In a report endorsed unanimously, the committee quoted estimates by Sir David showing that 70 per cent of women, up to 40 per cent of youths and up to 30 per cent of men should not be in prison.

The MPs said they found it

astounding that there had been no rigorous research on the effectiveness of community sentences. Sentencing was still "guesswork and optimism". Too few judges and magistrates inspected community sentencing schemes.

The report called for tougher penalties for offenders who breached orders. Police can take weeks to bring offenders back to court and the committee recommended a new offence, which could lead to a prison sentence.

The MPs also recommend that the term "community service order" should be changed to "criminal work order" to make it sound more like punishment.

Paul Cavadino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the report showed a sea change in the political consensus. It was the death knell of Michael Howard's policy of "Prison works", he said.



Gary Glitter arriving at the court in Yate, near Bristol

## Gary Glitter in court on child sex charges

GARY GLITTER appeared in court yesterday to face child sex and pornography charges. The pop star was arrested nine months ago when indecent images were allegedly found stored on his computer by repair workers.

Glitter, 54, confirmed his age and address and his real name as Paul Francis Gaden. He looked straight ahead while the 110 charges against him were read out at North Avon Magistrates' Court. Asked if he understood the charges, he replied: "I do."

The singer faces five allegations of indecent assault on girls aged under 16. The charges, which date from 1975, relate to two girls. He is also alleged to have committed four serious sexual offences with one of the girls, of which three are said to have happened when she was under 16.

He faces 51 charges under the Protection of Children Act 1978 of making indecent pseudo-photographs of children, and 50 alternative charges under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 of possessing indecent photographs of children. The hearing was adjourned.

## TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES Iris: a memoir



Alzheimer sufferers are not always gentle

**'She does not know she has written 27 remarkable novels, as well as her books on philosophy, to become a Dame of the British Empire'**

**JOHN BAYLEY'S MOVING STORY OF HIS LIFE WITH IRIS MURDOCH**

## Satellite TV porn channel banned

BY CAROL MIDDLELEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A FRENCH-BASED television channel was banned yesterday from transmitting hard-core pornography to Britain via satellite.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, ordered the ban, effective from today, after a High Court judge refused to continue a legal order preventing him from outlawing Eurotica Rendez-Vous until after its operators have had a chance to challenge the legality of the action.

The Government used a clause of an EU directive that allows member states to act against programmes "which might seriously impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors". But it could face a challenge if the courts eventually find it has acted unlawfully.

Yesterday Mr Justice Scott Baker, gave Danish Satellite Television A/S, which owns the channel, and its Luxembourg-based agents, Rendez-Vous Television International SA, permission to seek judicial review. The companies want a ruling that Mr Smith acted unlawfully and outside his jurisdiction when he issued a prohibition order on July 30 this year under the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

In October last year the Independent Television Commission decided that Eurotica Rendez-Vous, available via a decoder, was "unacceptable" and recommended that Mr Smith seek the order, which prohibits the marketing and sale of the service.

Mr Smith, who is taking a gamble on the outcome of the court challenge, said yesterday: "We are determined to protect children from satellite pornography and my message to pornographers is clear. We will not tolerate material such as this and the Government will not hesitate to take this action in future."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man held after death of family

The boyfriend of a woman who was found dead with her two children at her home in Egerton, near Bolton, was being questioned by detectives last night. Police had named Peter Hall, 34, of Radcliffe, near Manchester, as the man they wanted to speak to in connection with the deaths of Celeste Bates and her sons Daniel, eight, and Milo, 16 months.

Mr Hall was arrested after he crashed his car in Bolton. He suffered minor injuries.

### Boyfriend jailed

The boyfriend of Debbie Linden, 36, an actress and former Page Three girl, was cleared at the Old Bailey of giving her a heroin overdose. Russell Ainsworth, 27, from Kingston, Surrey, was found not guilty of manslaughter, but was jailed for 30 months for supplying the drug.

### Night flights stay

Residents have lost a fight to restrict night flying at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports next summer. Night movements and noise quotas would stay the same as for this summer, the Government said. Anti-noise groups are still hoping for a night curfew in 2000.

## CORRECTION

It is North Nottinghamshire Health Authority that plans to block all new referrals for male impotence, not Northamptonshire, as stated in a leading article on the drug Viagra (September 9).

A photograph (August 8), linked to a report on toxic waste dumps, showed a Harprule refuse vehicle on a refuse site. Harprule asks us to make clear that its business is to hire its vehicles to local authorities, and the company has no connection whatsoever with toxic waste dumps or their contents.

## Spectacular birdie makes golfer's day

BIRDIES and eagles are every golfer's dream, but one player's winning shot will go down in sporting legend as a down (Joanna Bale writes).

During an early-morning game with two friends, Mike Wisgard's ball was just short of the 10th green when a large of the 10th green and nudged the ball with its beak 30ft along the green into the hole. The advertising agency executive, 46, from Richmond, Surrey, said: "I watched in amazement as it started nudging the ball. When the ball milled, the hole, the bird

turned round and plopped it in from the other side. There are quite a few crows around the course, but this one had obviously been studying the game and just fancied a go."

The bird saved Mr Wisgard's par and he then won the par-four hole at Queen's Park golf club in Bourne-mouth. His playing partners were left baffled. Phil Ayliff, 69, of New Milton, Hampshire, said: "There is nothing in the rulebook about this. Only four shots had been taken by Mike and that had to be the number entered."

THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE

# UP TO 25% OFF SELECTED GARDEN POWER TOOLS.

## PLUS 10% OFF ALL SHEDS & GREENHOUSES.\*\*



Was £249  
**10% off**  
Now £224.10



Was £199.99  
**10% off**  
Now £179.99



Was £189  
**Over 20% off**  
Now £147.60  
Shiplap Shed 6' x 4' (1.8m x 1.2m)

THERE'S NO BETTER RECOMMENDATION



Was £149.99  
**Over 10% off**  
Now £129.99



Was £114.99  
**Over 25% off**  
Now £84.99



Was £59.99  
**Over 15% off**  
Now £49.99

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

# HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM\*\*

\*If you can find any of these products or offers locally at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. This will not affect your statutory rights. Prices marked include discount. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. \*\*Offer ends 29th September 1998. Opening times may vary. †Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm, certain other stores open 11am-5pm. Please call 0545 801000 during office hours for details of your nearest store.



# TA cuts are misguided, say MPs

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE Government's plan to cut the size of the Territorial Army by more than a third was condemned by MPs yesterday as shortsighted and misconceived.

The Defence Select Committee urged ministers to reconsider the recommendation of the recent Strategic Defence Review which said that the TA should cut its numbers from 59,000 to 40,000.

In a report on the review, the committee said the document's publication in July marked a "black day" for the TA. "The Territorial Army is still a valuable resource as long-term insurance against the unexpected, and retooling should be considered before cuts," the report said.

It added: "These forces, including the cadets, provide a vital recruiting ground for the regular forces and we believe a reduction in their roles and establishment could prove to be a very false economy in a period when recruiting to the regulars is such a challenge."

John Maples, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "With a small professional army of only 120,000 men, as we have at present, there ought to be a general reserve — not only to support the regular army, but to build on in a time of crisis."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence

spokesman, who sits on the committee, said: "The Government's proposals are inadequately thought out and potentially damaging to Britain's defence capability."

Although the committee backed the overall thrust of the review, it warned that the Government had possibly gone too far in boosting the expeditionary nature of the Armed Forces at the expense of neglecting home defence.

The committee also warned that any further cuts to the defence budget beyond the 3 per cent efficiency savings already set could cause the entire strategy to unravel. The MPs added that the Armed Forces would have a capability gap until two aircraft carriers planned in the review were operational — which might not be until 2018. They also questioned the decision to proceed with a £120 million refit of the nuclear submarine HMS *Spartan* four years before it was scheduled to be scrapped.

John Speller, the Defence Minister, said many of the roles carried out by the TA — such as defending key installations in case of an invasion threat — were no longer a priority. "It is wasteful and demoralising to maintain a large establishment for a non-existent role," he said.

# Labour invokes fear of the Left

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR officials were last night playing up the prospect of hard-left activists seizing up to four of the six seats on the party's National Executive Committee in this month's elections.

In what was seen as an attempt to increase the vote for the Blairite candidates, a party spokesman said it was plausible that the hard Left would gain the most seats.

Insiders suggest that Liz Davies, the hard-left activist vetoed as a candidate at the last general election, and Mark Seddon, Editor of the left-wing newspaper *Tribune*, are likely to win places on the reformed constituency section of the NEC. The party's rejection of Ms Davies as a potential MP caused a rift and her election now to the NEC would prove embarrassing for the leadership.

A senior party spokesman said: "I wouldn't be surprised if the hard-left slate were to win a number of seats — more than last year. I don't think anybody is expecting a clean sweep for a Blairite slate."

The Grassroots Alliance, fielding six hard-left candidates, suggested that the leadership was trying to play up the Left's prospects to persuade members who are not activists to vote. Members First, fielding six moderates, believes that a bigger vote will boost its chances.



Alan Howarth, left, the Heritage Minister, and Sir Martin Jacob, chairman of the Prudential Corporation, at the Prudential building in Central London, one of 2,200 buildings open during English Heritage's Open Days event this and next weekend

# Dewar aims to shake off sleaze with relaunch

By Shirley English

SNP SILENT

DONALD DEWAR, the Scottish Secretary, will attempt today to draw a line under the legacy of Labour sleaze north of the border by relaunching the party under the banner of Scottish New Labour.

The move comes on the first anniversary of the devolution referendum and two days after the expulsion of Tommy Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West, who has come to characterise the bitter feuding in its urban heartlands.

It is understood that the title was chosen after work with focus groups. Mr Dewar will also unveil a mission statement *The Lifetime of Opportunity*, comprising policies offering "opportunity for all from the cradle to the grave", focusing on child care, education, housing and health.

Political analysts expressed doubts about the name change. John Curtis of Strathclyde University said it was "entirely misguided". By emphasising the party's links with Blairism through the word "new" rather than its Scottishness, Labour was unlikely to convince the electorate that it could capitalise on the relative autonomy offered by devolution.

Mr Dewar's announcement in Glasgow is likely to be overshadowed by Mr Graham's plans to challenge his expulsion in the courts through judicial review.

Yesterday Mr Graham, 54, whose 33-year Labour Party

The Scottish National Party unveiled its key policies for next year's elections to the Holyrood parliament yesterday but postponed a decision on whether it would use tax-raising powers.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, outlined intentions to reform business rates, introduce proportional representation for local elections and to abolish tuition fees for students from England, Wales and Ireland studying in Scotland. However, the party avoided saying whether it will use the parliament's 3p-in-the-pound tax varying power.

membership ended on Wednesday after he was guilty of sustained misconduct, insisted that he was "Labour through and through" and had no intention of defecting to the Scottish National Party.

The 20-stone, cigar-smoking MP, who claims he was the victim of a conspiracy by Blairite enemies, warned other MPs of the "old Labour ilk" to watch their backs, or shape up if they were to survive. "I would hope they would sensibly regroup, making sure they are not isolated and making sure they have a strong group to withstand attack. Otherwise they should slim down to ten stone, buy a slick new suit and tie and a wee bit of make-up."

Mr Dewar's announcement in Glasgow is likely to be overshadowed by Mr Graham's plans to challenge his expulsion in the courts through judicial review.

Yesterday Mr Graham, 54, whose 33-year Labour Party

# Dixons

ALL INCLUSIVE

## 1 YEAR PACKAGE

ONLY

# £149.99\*

FROM ORANGE

**PRICE CHECK**

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

**MOTOROLA** mr30 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

CONNECTION TO ORANGE TALK 15 TARIFF

1 YEAR'S LINE RENTAL

15 MINUTES OF CALLS EVERY MONTH FOR LIFE

SAVE OVER £116\*\*

**MOTOROLA** mr30 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 150 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.
- 190 name and number memory.
- Charging time 90 minutes.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Caller identification — see who is calling you before you answer.

Dixons Deal

£149.99\*

\*\*When converted to 12 months line rental on Talk 15  
12 x £129.99 = £1559.88. Phone £29.99. Connection £25.26. Subject to status. Ask in-store for details.  
\*101 peak 7pm-7am and all day weekends.

- BILLING BY THE SECOND
- FREE ITEMISED BILLING
- OFF-PEAK CALLS ONLY 5p PER MINUTE
- PEAK CALLS ONLY 30p PER MINUTE
- 98% UK POPULATION COVERAGE

# Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

ON-LINE SHOP: [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk)

**PRICE-WE CAN'T BE BEATEN**

Dixons Price Promise ensures EVERY single price in-store is unbeatable! If you find the same offer cheaper locally, notify us within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. Mail order excluded.

## Outcry as Bank rejects rate cut

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

UNIONS and bosses turned their fire on the Bank of England yesterday after it rejected calls for a reduction in the cost of borrowing and left interest rates at 7.5 per cent.

John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, led a chorus of criticism of the Bank's decision. Ken Jackson, of the engineering workers' union, called it "industrial vandalism". It was predicted that Eddie George, the Bank of England governor, will get a rough ride at the TUC conference in Blackpool next week.

Mr Jackson said: "Working people will want to hear him explain why the Monetary Policy Committee ignores industry and threatens the jobs of ordinary people. The MPC lives in the world of statistics, while working people have to survive in the real economy."

Ian Peters, deputy director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said that the decision would bitterly disappoint business, which had hoped for a rate cut to ensure that the pound's downward trend was sustained. "Business will have to continue to endure the slow torture caused by high interest rates, a strong pound and economic turmoil abroad."

Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the Institute of Directors, said: "I am very disappointed that the Bank has not reduced interest rates by at least 0.25 per cent if not 0.5 per cent."

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, on a visit to the North East, said that Labour's policies were harming its industrial heartland. "It is their interest rates, through the Bank of England, that are determining the future of manufacturing; their sterling rate policy, or lack of one, that is doing the damage."

## Ministerial double-act gets the call

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the Cabinet's "enforcer", and Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, are being groomed to become official spokesmen for the Government.

Tony Blair wants the two senior ministers to kick off their new high-profile roles at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool later this month, where they are expected to share main interviews with television and radio.

They will also take part in a series of public meetings throughout the country in the coming months. The Government is keen to expand its contact with the regions, and separate itineraries for each minister are envisaged so most of the country can be covered.

Their appearances and speeches will be organised to complement those made by Mr Blair.

SPECIAL OFFER for readers aged 50 and over

YOU'RE THE good company

Regular contributors include:

- Katharine Whitehorn
- Clement Freud
- Keith Waterhouse
- Marguerite Patten

Your money back in full if you are not completely satisfied

Have you ever read Saga Magazine? If so, you will know that with over one million regular readers, it is far and away the UK's most popular publication for people aged 50 and over, packed with informed, interesting articles on subjects that really matter to you.

With a line up of contributors including Clement Freud, Keith Waterhouse, Katharine Whitehorn and Marguerite Patten, you can always expect intelligent writing, plus plenty of wit and entertainment.

Because value matters too, new readers are invited to subscribe to Saga Magazine and if you are not completely satisfied after your first three issues, we will send you a full refund.

Your subscription also gives you full membership of the Saga Club, making you eligible for exclusive offers including regular holiday discounts and up to 30% savings on certain worldwide scheduled flights.

To take advantage of this special offer, simply complete and return the coupon to: Saga Publishing Ltd, Freepost CU250, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1BR. (This offer is valid for the next fourteen days.)

Website address: <http://www.saga.co.uk/publishing/>

Money Back Guarantee: Thanks to our unconditional money back guarantee, you can sample Saga Magazine without risk. If you do not enjoy the first three issues, let us know before your fourth issue arrives and we'll send you a full refund.

YES, I would like to subscribe for 1 year (12 issues) to Saga Magazine:

Title  Initial(s)  Surname

Address

Tel No.  Postcode

Date of Birth (Mr)  (Mrs/Miss)

Marital Status  I enclose a cheque for £12.95 (UK rates only) payable to Saga Publishing Limited

I wish to pay by credit card. Please charge £12.95 (UK rates only) to  Mastercard  Visa

My/our card number is

Card expiry date

Signature

Date

Please allow up to 28 days for your first magazine to arrive

Saga Publishing Ltd, would like to send you details about other Saga products and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose. If you do not wish to receive further information, please tick

سكزا من الأهل

Breathe revolution visits

Health care staff call for a 20% pay rise

£2.00

UNITED COLLEGE OF BENETTON

Fall '98



# Breath test will revolutionise visits to doctor

By MARK HENDERSON

A REVOLUTIONARY breath test that allows doctors to diagnose common illnesses without waiting days for blood or urine sample results is being developed by British scientists and could be available within two years.

The breathalyser, which initially will test for different strains of the common cold within minutes, is likely to be available to hospitals by the end of 2000. A hand-held version is planned for 2002, allowing GPs to make on-the-spot diagnoses that will save the health service millions of pounds in drugs bills and combat the rise of "superbugs" resistant to antibiotics.

The test, which registers odours in a patient's breath specific to different kinds of cold, will mean doctors can say with certainty if a patient has an infection that would benefit from antibiotics.

Breath tests for other illnesses are likely to be developed. At present, doctors estimate that as much as 60 per cent of the annual £34 million bill for antibiotics in England alone is wasted on patients with viral colds for which the drugs are ineffective. The test will also help to contain superbugs by reducing their exposure to drugs and limiting their capacity to develop resistance.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, and Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, warned doctors last week to limit antibiotic prescriptions for coughs, sore throats and colds because of fears that more bacteria were developing resistance.

Imperial College London announced a commercial partnership yesterday with the biotechnology group Kiotech, which largely exists already,

into a useable device. Their researchers are also working on a similar test for asthma, which measures the extent of the inflammation that causes breathing difficulties rather than the symptoms, allowing more accurate diagnosis and more appropriate treatment.

Peter Openshaw, Professor of Experimental Medicine at the college's National Heart and Lung Institute, said the technique would revolutionise diagnosis. "It gives GPs the ability to tell patients that they do or do not need antibiotics... It's also a key weapon in the fight against superbugs. In ten years' time it will seem archaic to send away for tests."

George Dodd, director of research and development at Kiotech, said most of the technology needed for the breathalyser already existed and needed only to be brought together across disciplines.

# The egg with its heart in the right place

By ROBIN YOUNG

CONSUMERS could soon be going back to work on an egg with confidence that it will help their health, not harm it.

What are claimed to be healthier eggs — rich in omega 3 essential fatty acids and capable of reducing blood pressure, blood clotting and heart arrhythmia — are going on sale this week.

Columbus eggs have been developed by Belovo, a Belgian egg-processing company. Already 60,000 hens, producing 750 cases of eggs a week, have been converted to Columbus egg production. The eggs are going on sale this week, at 10p a half-dozen more than standard eggs.

The egg's secret, according to Fabien de Meester, managing director of Belovo, is in the birds' diet, replicating what free-wandering birds would eat in the wild. He said: "The rudimentary lymphatic system of the chicken transfers the balanced fatty acids to the yolk of the egg."

Dr de Meester said that fatty acid ratios in the human diet had been maintained in equilibrium until, in the last century and a half, the widespread use of vegetable fat and oils made the diet very poor in omega 3 acids, the fatty acids in oily fish.



Fabien de Meester: the secret is in the chicken's diet, which is what free-wandering birds eat in the wild

Omega 3 fatty acids are believed to play a vital role in reducing the risk of heart disease by reducing blood pressure, reducing the tendency of blood to clot, and protecting against irregular heart beats. They are also thought to be important in the development of the brain and the eye.

When Columbus eggs are broken the yolk appears larger and flatter because it is less viscous. The colour is also paler because the birds are not given chemicals to enhance the yolk colour. They keep just as long as standard eggs.

# Health care staff call for a 22% pay rise

By MARK HENDERSON

HEALTH unions will demand a 22 per cent salary rise over three years for non-medical professionals today, ignoring for the second time this week government calls for pay restraint.

Unions representing professions allied to medicine, such as physiotherapists, radiographers and chiropodists, will make the claim in evidence to their independent pay review body.

The pay claim follows the British Medical Association's call on Wednesday for a 10 per cent rise for doctors, repeated for five years. Nurses are expected to ask for a substantial award during the next week. The demands are likely to be resisted by the Government, which said in July that its £21 billion investment in the NHS was for patient care, not staff salaries.

The Professions Allied to Medicine union said that a significant award was needed to halt a recruitment and retention crisis worse than in any other sector of the NHS. A union survey found that only one in ten health professionals expected to be working in the NHS in three years' time. Two thirds of those planning to leave cited pay.

# £2.5m for cancer screening scheme

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to spend £2.5 million to investigate setting up a national screening programme for bowel cancer.

The money is for two pilot studies — one each in Scotland and England — for up to three years, each covering a population of about one million. Screening will be offered every two years to everyone between 50 and 69, the age when the disease is most likely to occur.

The disease is the second most deadly cancer and kills nearly 20,000 people every year. About 30,000 people annually are found to be suffering from bowel cancer, including 6,000 under the age of 60. Early detection and treatment offer the best hopes of a cure.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, said yesterday that the pilot scheme was an opportunity to gauge its feasibility and whether it was acceptable to the public.

"It is time to break the taboo of bowel cancer. Tens of thousands of people are suffering in silence, too embarrassed to tell their husbands, wives and doctors. But when it is caught early, bowel cancer is one of the most curable of all cancers."



the sunflowers fall '98

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

In association with **LENOX**

When you clean with the Panasonic MC-E567, nothing gets left behind. Because when it presses against the skirting board, a panel on the front flips up, allowing it to vacuum right up to the wall. While Edge-to-Edge Cleaning takes care of the sides. No more fiddling about with attachments, or moving the furniture. Then before the air is expelled again, the remarkable S-Class Filtration System captures 99.97% of dust particles down to 0.3 microns. That's smaller than the eye can see. And when the dust content falls to a certain level, a green Dust Sensor light illuminates, so you know that your carpet is truly clean. Which, with Front Edge Cleaning, means every inch of it. To find out more, call us on 0990 357 357.

**Panasonic**  
Vacuum Cleaners



readers voted 54 million



# Experts back new tests for hidden BSE

THE Government's advisory committee on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has recommended a new series of tests on cows that appear healthy but may be carrying the agents that cause "mad cow" disease.

The tests are the suggestion of John Collinge, of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in West London, who has developed a technique that can be used to test samples from cows quickly and cheaply. The specimens would come from healthy cows slaughtered in abattoirs without any hint that they may be incubating BSE.

The idea is to investigate whether there are some cows that carry the infective agent

Reports by Nigel Hawkes and Nick Nuttall

for long periods, but never suffer symptoms. If such sub-clinical cases exist, it is possible that many cows could remain infectious even when the BSE epidemic is over.

Dr Collinge's test, using a technique called Western Blot, detects the aberrant protein that is responsible for BSE or new-variant CJD, the brain disease that is the human equivalent of BSE. It is much quicker than the classical methods for testing infectivity, which have involved

injecting mice with brain material from cows and waiting for them to become ill.

Professor John Pattison, chairman of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac), told the British Association for the Advancement of Science's festival in Cardiff yesterday that the research had the approval of his committee and that a recommendation had gone to the Ministry of Agriculture. It seems highly unlikely to be turned down.

Professor Richard Lacey, a long-term critic of the ministry's approach to BSE, believes that the number of cases is being underestimated. He has urged an even larger series of tests, on material taken at random from abattoirs, to check this. "For years I have been asking for systematic surveys in abattoirs, but they have never been done," he said yesterday. "I cannot understand why."

Other members of Seac are more sceptical about that approach. Professor Roy Anderson, of Oxford University, said that he still believed the BSE epidemic was close to its end, and would be at an extremely low level by 2001. He added that Dr Collinge's test needed further validation before it could be relied upon.

□ Poverty, starvation and unemployment in the developing world will all rise if genetically engineered crops become widespread, the festival was told.

Professor Martha Crouch, a biologist and former genetic engineering researcher at the University of Indiana, said claims that gene-modified plants could feed the world in the 21st century were a myth.

Genetic engineering was turning animals into factories and machines. It perpetuated the planting of vast fields of identical, monoculture crops which were harming the environment and wildlife and undermining rural cultures across the globe, she said.

"This machine model of nature would be fine if that was what nature was like. But nature is not like that and it is going to cause a lot of problems."



Touch and go: the user can select tonight's viewing and tomorrow's groceries with the appliance of the future

BY NICHOLAS BOOTH

## Just the thing for those TV dinners

ANYONE who has ever wanted to cook a meal, pay the gas bill, do the shopping and watch the latest episode of *Coronation Street* without climbing down from their kitchen stool will soon have the perfect gadget.

British researchers have developed the Microwave Bank — an oven connected to the Internet and with a screen in its door. As well as combining TV dinners with TV programmes, the machine will enable the user to order goods or make financial transactions via the Net. Stephen

Emmott, of NCR, which makes hole-in-the-wall cash dispensers, said: "You could watch Delia Smith and follow her instructions if you wanted. You can bake your cake, eat it and replace the ingredients you've used."

The Microwave Bank will respond to instructions using voice recognition software. For anyone who actually

wants to lift a finger, it will also have a touch-sensitive screen. The working prototype has a barcode scanner for ordering groceries.

NCR's Knowledge Lab developed the idea to help to ease the pressure on banks, which can offset the cost of keeping branches open by offering services via the Internet. Although banks

have been encouraging customers to take up the offer of such services there is resistance to change.

"Only 30 per cent of homes have personal computers," Dr Emmott said. "But our research has shown that consumers who refuse to use a PC take to the Microwave Bank like a duck to water."

Ease of use would be the key to the machine's success. "People are familiar with the Microwave — they are comfortable with it," he said. A production version would cost between £600 and £700 — about the same as a top of the range microwave oven.

## Alert over smoking in pregnancy is ignored

BY IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE out of six women smokers ignore warnings that they are damaging their unborn child when they become pregnant, according to a study published today. The findings suggest it will be impossible to meet the Health Department's target that at least a third of women smokers will stop when they know they are pregnant.

The survey is the latest in an annual series by the Health Education Authority. It shows that last year only one in six women gave up smoking when they became pregnant, the same proportion as in 1992, when the campaigns began. Only one woman in ten gave up immediately before becoming pregnant, despite advice that those who want to have a baby should not smoke while trying to conceive.

The highest rate of smoking is among the 15 to 24 age group, of whom three quarters were from manual or unemployed groups, compared with about three fifths among the 25-30 group and two fifths of those aged over 30. "Our findings suggest that current practice to reduce smoking during pregnancy is either not working or lacks sufficient investment and prioritisation to be effective," the report in the *British Medical Journal* says.

American research published last month shows that mothers who smoke pass a nicotine-derived carcinogen called BBNK to babies in the womb.

### BRITISH ASSOCIATION

## £30m to wipe out mink

Mink could be eliminated from Britain, but the operation would cost £30 million, the association was told. Professor Morris Gosling, of the Zoological Society of London, said: "Mink can be caught in traps baited with fish. But it would be a lengthy and labour-intensive task." David MacDonald, of Oxford University, said that the release of thousands of mink from a New Forest fur farm would add few to the wild because most would die.

## Star travel delay

Professor Frank Close, of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, has worked out that it would take only 20 kilograms of antimatter to power a spaceship to the stars. Unfortunately, it would take 10,000 times longer than all recorded history for CERN, the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Geneva, to provide the fuel.

## Jurassic Park insect find

An extinct and unknown species of mayfly has been found in Mexico, perfectly preserved in 25 million-year-old amber. Andrew Ross, a curator at the Natural History Museum, said that the insect, which has yet to be named, would have lived just a few hours before becoming trapped in the ancient tree resin.

## Stradivarius discord

A Stradivarius is no better than any other well-made violin, according to Bernard Richardson, of Cardiff University's physics and astronomy department. Although many people thought there was "something magical" about the 18th-century instruments, studies had shown that secret, long-lost, skills had not been used to make them.

## Courts will sit in session on the Internet

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE will resolve many legal disputes over the Internet from their homes, rather than going to court, under plans unveiled yesterday.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, outlined proposals that envisage "virtual" court hearings in which people can communicate with the judge and lawyers over the Internet via their television sets. Many of the traditional trappings of justice — including legal documents, books, papers and court

hearings — are likely to disappear. The proposals put forward in the consultation paper, civil justice, form the first draft of an information technology strategy for the next 15 years. Judges and lawyers will still be needed. But much routine legal work will be computerised and packaged as an online product, such as drafting standard contracts and agreements.

The paper asks: "Is it the physical courtroom with associated trappings that is important to most people, or is it the confidence that their dispute is being addressed by an appropriate, impartial person?" Many more cases

could be disposed of via "virtual" hearings that could be less daunting and more cost-effective for certain kinds of grievance, such as many tribunal claims. The paper suggests that people would obtain far more legal advice and information online than from lawyers, using computer kiosks or terminals in shopping malls and courts, and via the Internet.

The paper suggests the creation of a website to act as an online civil justice service, a first port of call for anyone seeking information or advice on legal problems. Lawyers would also have to change the way they work, and move

away from providing a high-cost advice service billed by the hour. Legal products for mass consumption would be developed online and legal services sold in high volume at lower prices.

The paper says there is a large unmet need for legal services that might be better served by online legal services providing "affordable, jargon-free legal help at the fingertips of large numbers of clients across the World Wide Web."

Responses to the paper are invited by December 8. The paper is on the department's website: [www.open.gov.uk/lcd/index.htm](http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd/index.htm)

## The facts of life.

# Prepare yourself for a shock.

You may be paying well over the odds for your fixed term or mortgage protection life cover, and one quick phone call to Direct Line could change all that. Don't say we didn't tell you.

| Male 35 next birthday non-smoker - monthly premiums. |           |                              |                         |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sum assured £100,000 20 year term                    | Per Annum | Total paid over 20 year term | Saving with Direct Line |
| Direct Line  | £202.20   | £4044.00                     | -                       |
| Abbey National Life                                  | £272.64   | £5452.80                     | £1408.80                |
| Nationwide Life                                      | £294.00   | £5880.00                     | £1836.00                |

Source: Life and Pensions MoneyFacts - July 1998



**0845 3000 233** DIRECT LINE  
Weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm

Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5SH. Tel: 0845 3000 233. Registered in England No. 2199786. Registered Office: 3 Edridge Road, Croydon CR9 1AG. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited markets only its own products and offers investment advice only about its own products. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Calls may be recorded for your added security. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



### NEWS REVIEW

Edward Heath: my feud with Thatcher. First extracts from the former PM's memoirs. This Sunday



### CULTURE

Steven Spielberg: exclusive interview examines the jaw-dropping horrors of Saving Private Ryan



### STYLE

Eva Herzigova - Thigh High. A change of emphasis for the Wonderbra girl

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

سكذافن الأمل

Yeltsin Duma over P...  
Pope blesses F... plan to serve Millennium m...  
ONLY... LINE RENT...  
2P... £15 FOR...  
FREE...  
FREE...  
FREE...  
FREE...  
FREE...  
ERICSSON...  
vodafone



# Yeltsin bows to Duma's wishes over Primakov

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S damaging political stalemate ended in a compromise yesterday when President Yeltsin bowed to parliament and selected Yevgeni Primakov, his former Foreign Minister, to become Russia's next Prime Minister. The appointment was widely welcomed by Russian leaders across the political spectrum, who promised to confirm Mr Primakov this afternoon in parliament. Mr Yeltsin put forward his name after dropping Viktor Chernomyrdin, the unpopular acting Prime Minister, whose nomination was rejected twice by the Duma — the lower house of parliament. Although the climbdown was a blow to the Kremlin leader's authority, Mr Primakov is a good alternative. As the longest serving Cabinet

minister, who previously ran the foreign intelligence service, he has experience and credibility, without posing a threat to Mr Yeltsin's position. As Foreign Minister for the past two and a half years, he successfully reorientated Russia's policy away from the West, an achievement which made him popular with Communists and nationalists alike. His nomination yesterday, after nearly two weeks without government in Russia, had an immediate stabilising effect on the country's economic crisis. The rouble continued to strengthen against the dollar and shares even staged a modest rally on the beleaguered Moscow Stock Exchange. However, there were fears that Mr Primakov would be

unable to address the fundamental political and economic problems facing Russia over the coming months. There is a growing consensus that Mr Yeltsin is no longer fit for office and should not be allowed to complete his term which expires in 2000. Also, only a powerful and courageous leader will be able to impose the tough measures necessary this winter to combat further devaluation and hyperinflation. The 68-year-old former spy chief is untested on economic policy. But yesterday Russians were simply pleased to have a credible figure in place who could end the paralysis at the heart of government and who appeared to have solid support. His nomination was championed almost unanimously.



Yevgeni Primakov, who was nominated yesterday as the new Russian Prime Minister, pictured on a visit to London as Foreign Minister earlier this year

# Spy boss won the confidence of US

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

JOURNALIST, spy, academic, linguist and diplomat — Yevgeni Primakov has tried a whole range of professions in his long career and excelled at all of them before being nominated yesterday as Prime Minister by President Yeltsin. There is one significant omission from the list: Mr Primakov has never worked as economist, a factor that might call into question his ability to extricate Russia from its current economic crisis and arrest the fall of the rouble. But this is not expected to impede his approval by the Duma. Perhaps his greatest skill over the years has been to win trust and confidence across the political spectrum. That is only to be expected from a man who rose through the Communist Party hierarchy under Leonid Brezhnev, continued to prosper in the perestroika years under Mikhail Gorbachev and then survived the fall of Communism to be appointed chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service and then Foreign Minister by Mr Yeltsin. Even Grigori Yavlinsky,

leader of the liberal Yabloko faction and an avowedly anti-interventionist market economist, threw his support behind Mr Primakov. Mr Primakov himself can scarcely be said to be relishing the prospect of heading a new Russian government, but if he takes on the job — and it can be safely assumed that he will — he is likely to throw himself into it with energy and dedication. In 1996, when he was moved to the Foreign Ministry to replace Andrei Kozyrev, who was then regarded as too pro-Western, initially hostile officials at the US State Department, were impressed by the thoroughness of his briefing and by his negotiating skills. His relationship with Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, has flourished, despite wide differences between Russian and US foreign policy over the expansion of Nato and Iraq. The contacts he built up during more than 30 years of involvement with the intelligence services give him a formidable knowledge of leaders abroad as well as politicians at home.

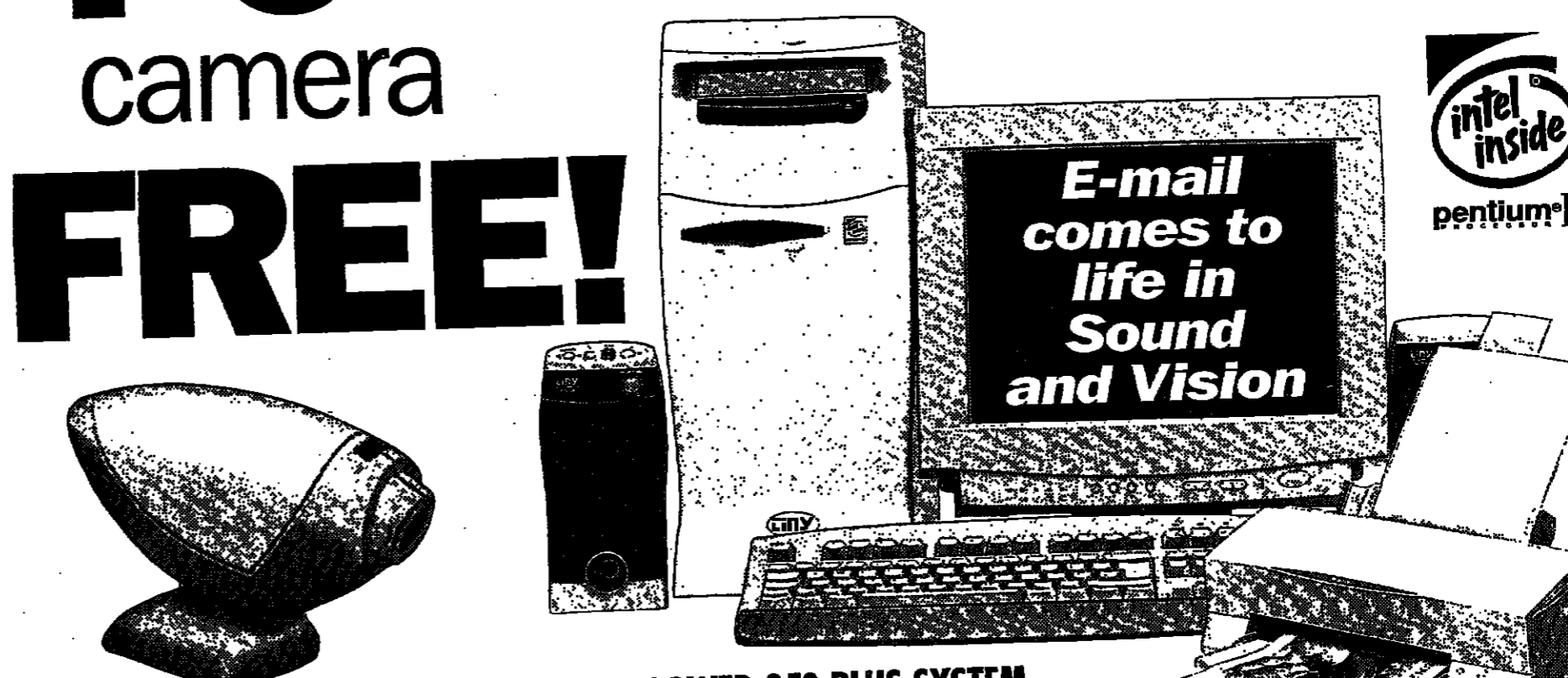
# Pope blesses Rome plan to serve up 'Millennium menu'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican, which recently gave a reminder that the millennium is less than 500 days away, yesterday gave its blessing to a "Millennium menu" for visitors to Rome in 2000 that will include medallions of beef à la cardinal, Sistine Chapel mushrooms and pilgrims' pudding. The four-course "Holy Year meal" is a far cry from the simple fare once offered to pilgrims who made the journey to Rome in the Middle Ages. It will be served by 400 Rome restaurants which have agreed to take part in the scheme. The meal will cost £10 a head for the estimated 27 million people expected to attend celebrations marking the millennium, which the Pope has declared a Holy Year, or Jubilee. The Pope wants the Jubilee to focus on a renewal of Christian values rather than secular celebrations, but millennium plans in Rome have been marred by rows over a number of grandiose construction and transport projects, many of which have ground to a halt because of planning disagreements, failure to release funds, or objections by the Superintendent of Archaeology. Traffic around St Peter's is already chaotic

because of work on a new underground parking area for tourist coaches, and Vatican officials said the prospect of catering for millions of hungry people will provide a further "prospective headache". The Association of Rome Restaurateurs said it had offered to help by agreeing an official budget menu. "People will need a proper sit-down meal after tramping the streets of Rome," Roberto Carosi, the head of the association, told *La Repubblica*. "Many will be tempted by a snack at pizzerias and fast food outlets, but this will not give them enough calories". Wine is on top of the £10 cost, with the organisers recommending Fontana di Papa, a refreshing, dry white wine produced in the Frascati hills near Castelgandolfo, the Pope's summer residence outside Rome. A typical meal might consist of penne dell'angelo, a pasta dish with courgettes, anchovies, raisins, pine nuts and mozzarella; abbacchio di camerlengo, or papal chamberlain's lamb, lamb cutlets fried in egg and breadcrumbs with a creamy sauce made of artichokes, mint, parsley and garlic, salad and pudding.

# Power up to the 350 PC and get the video camera FREE!



Sheer brilliance from Tiny. A super-spec PC, printer and video camera! No-one beats Tiny to the High Street with the latest technology at direct-from-factory prices.

- SUPER POWER 350 PLUS SYSTEM**
- Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
  - 128MB FAST SD RAM 100MHz
  - 6.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
  - 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
  - Integrated 8MB SDRAM AGP Graphics featuring the ATI Rage Pro (2x) Chipset
  - 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
  - Creative Labs Soundblaster 64 Wavetable Integrated Sound plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers
  - Voice Fax/Modem 56Kbps
  - Free Trial BT LineOne Internet Access

- USB Video camera with Voice Mail and Software
- Epson Stylus 440 Colour Printer
- Windows 98 Now Included

THE BIG, HIGH-QUALITY SOFTWARE BONUS. OVER £630 OF SOFTWARE INCLUDED. Only Tiny gives you the outstanding software you want and need for your PC (complete with back-up disks)... including Microsoft Family '98 and Home Entertainment.

£1099 ex VAT

# ONLY £15 LINE RENTAL

WHY PAY £17.50 PER MONTH LINE RENTAL WHEN YOU CAN PAY (INC. VAT) ONLY £15 FOR LIFE

20 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH FREE

ERICSSON GA628 DIGITAL PHONE FREE

PORTABLE HANDS-FREE KIT WORTH £12.95 FREE

LEATHER CARRY CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR WORTH £12.95 FREE

CASIO PERSONAL ORGANISER FREE

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Monthly 1500 mins. Rental £17.50 (21.00 inc. VAT) Includes 20 mins. of calls. Monthly 1500 mins. Rental £15.00 (18.00 inc. VAT) Monthly 1500 mins. Rental £15.00 (18.00 inc. VAT) Includes 20 mins. of calls.

14 DAY PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE

ERICSSON GA628

- 80 hour battery
- 3.5 hours talk time
- Compact and lightweight

vodafone

Ref. TV1109

OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-10pm • Fri 9am-9pm • Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 9am-5pm

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone 0800 00 00 77

24 Hours

DIAL-A-PHONE

PAY NOTHING FOR 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT 26.99%

NO DEPOSIT PAYMENTS INTEREST

REPAYMENT EXAMPLE - SUPER POWER 350 PLUS SYSTEM

PC cash price £1326.58 (inc. delivery £30 + VAT @ 17.5%). Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £64.79. Total amount payable £2332.44. APR 26.99%. Interest is calculated from day one of agreement. Written questions upon request. Finance subject to status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FREEPHONE 0800 731 9372

**TINY**

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB. FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Tiny Computers Limited is part of the OT group. Prices exclude delivery.

74 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

|             |               |                 |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ALTRINCHAM* | HUDDERSFIELD  | PETERBOROUGH    |
| BELFAST     | HULL          | PLYMOUTH        |
| BIRMINGHAM  | ILFORD        | PORTSMOUTH      |
| BOLTON      | IPSWICH*      | PRESTON         |
| BRADFORD    | KINGSTON      | READING         |
| BRIGHTON    | LAKESIDE      | ROMFOR          |
| BRISTOL     | LEEDS         | SHREWSBURY*     |
| BROMLEY     | LEICESTER     | SOUTHALL*       |
| CAMBRIDGE   | LIVERPOOL     | SOUTHAMPTON     |
| CANTERBURY  | LONDON        | STAKE-ON-TRENT* |
| CARDIFF     | LONDON W1*    | SUNDERLAND      |
| CHELMSFORD  | LONDON SW10*  | SUTTON          |
| CHELTENHAM  | LONDON EC2*   | SWANSEA         |
| CHESTER     | LUTON*        | SWINDON         |
| COVENTRY    | LONDON DERRY  | TALTON          |
| CRAWLEY     | MANCHESTER    | TRURO*          |
| CROYDON     | MEADONHALL    | TUNBRIDGE WELLS |
| DERBY       | SHEFFIELD     | WATFORD         |
| EALING      | MIDDLESBROUGH | WIGAN           |
| EDINBURGH   | MILTON KEYNES | WOLVERHAMPTON*  |
| EXETER      | NEWCASTLE     | WORCESTER       |
| GLASGOW     | NEWPORT       | WYK             |
| GLOUCESTER* | NORTHAMPTON*  |                 |
| GUILDFORD   | NORWICH       |                 |
| GRIMSBY     | NOTTINGHAM    |                 |
| HARRROW     | OXFORD        |                 |

\* Showrooms not open Sundays

LONDONDERRY NOW OPEN

WEST EVER

SAVE = 100

20

LOWEST PRICES



# Pakistan asks MPs to back test ban treaty

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN has summoned an emergency joint session of parliament today to seek approval of a decision to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which may lead to the lifting of economic sanctions imposed against it after it conducted nuclear tests.

Government sources confirmed last night that a decision in principle had been taken by the country's top civil and military leadership earlier this week. Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, later conveyed his Government's willingness to halt nuclear tests to President Clinton by telephone on Tuesday.

Pakistan hopes that the commitment will lead to the resumption of financial aid and loans from the United States and multilateral financial agencies. The sanctions, which were imposed by the Group of Eight countries in May, have seriously hit the country's fragile economy and pushed it to the brink of a total breakdown. Islamabad's commitment to accept the treaty was the main precondition for easing sanctions.

The real question was when, rather than if, Pakistan accepts the treaty, a senior

government official was quoted as saying. However, the Government has not yet made the decision public for political reasons. "We have left it to parliament to take a decision on the issue," said Mushahid Hussain, the Minister for Information.

The Government, which commands a comfortable majority in parliament, is not likely to face any problem in securing approval. The main opposition Pakistan People's Party, led by Benazir Bhutto, has also indicated that it would favour signing the treaty. However, the Government may face some opposition from the right-wing Islamist groups which have threatened to launch a nationwide agitation if the Government signs the treaty. But these groups do not have any significant representation in parliament.

The parliamentary debate is expected to last three days. The Government wants to get parliamentary approval on the issue before Mr Sharif's scheduled meeting with President Clinton in New York on September 21.

Most analysts agree that Pakistan's decision was largely dictated by economic compulsion. "Without accepting

the ban on nuclear tests, Pakistan cannot have access to low-interest loans from the International Monetary Fund," says Samina Ahmed, a leading security analyst. "The signing of the treaty will not affect Pakistan's nuclear capability."

An IMF team will arrive in Islamabad today for talks on an emergency relief package. Pakistan needs at least \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) in loans to meet its balance of payments and foreign debt servicing requirements.

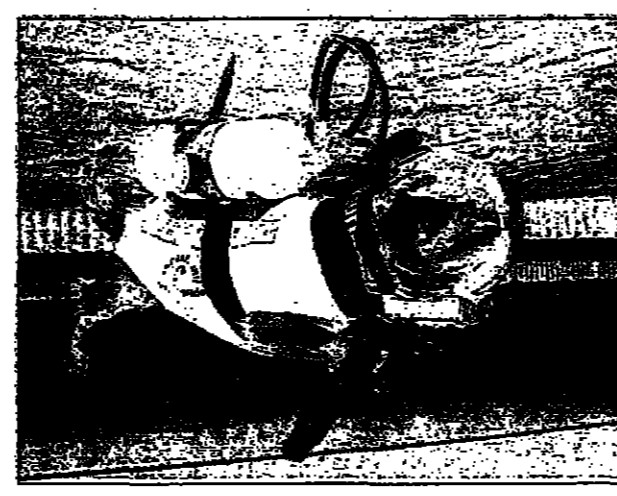
Jerusalem: Israel's Home Front command is going to overhaul its defence strategy in the light of nuclear threats, according to Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister (Christopher Walker writes).

Pakistan's nuclear capability has led to widespread fears that nuclear knowhow may be transferred to Israel's main enemies, notably Iran.

Yesterday's announcement of a rethink in defence strategy came only 24 hours after publication of the disclosure by Scott Ritter, the former top United Nations arms inspector, that Iraq is hiding three nuclear bombs that are technologically complete.



Hooch, the sky-diving dog, in action with her owner, Sean Herbert, before having to give up her hobbies



## Flying dog grounded

Sydney: She jumped out of aircraft, swam underwater but had to end her hobbies when she fell out of bed. For Hooch, a seven-year-old dog and the vet barred any more escapades when she broke a leg jumping off the bed of Sean Herbert, her owner. "The vet said it was time to call it a day," said Mr Herbert. Hooch, a cross between a cattle dog and King Charles spaniel, made 53 parachute jumps and 14 scuba dives.

"I've heard of a dog in the United States which had made some parachute jumps and one which went scuba diving, but never heard of a dog which did both," said Mr Herbert. Hooch's wetsuit and air tank, with a bubble-like helmet, cost \$2,000 (£704) to make and she started her underwater tricks when she followed Mr Herbert into the sea. When she went sky-diving she was attached to her owner with a harness.

"I don't think I'll get another dog interested," Mr Herbert said. (AFP)

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Taleban finds dead Iranians

Islamabad: Taleban said it had found the bodies of nine Iranian diplomats whose disappearance sparked a huge Iranian military build-up on the Afghanistan border. The movement's senior spokesman told the Afghan Islamic Press news agency that Taleban fighters acting independently killed the Iranians and said those responsible would be punished.

It was the first time the radical Sunni Muslim movement had publicly admitted that Iranians had been killed when its fighters captured the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif last month. Tehran yesterday announced its second important military exercises on the Afghan border in a month. (Reuters)

### Rocket fails

Moscow: Twelve communications satellites belonging to Globalstar Telecommunications Ltd, were lost when a Ukrainian Zenit rocket crashed after being launched from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome. (Reuters)

### Britons fly out

Dhaka: The British High Commission is to evacuate 40 British women and children on the next available flights as Bangladesh's floods threaten the capital. The High Commission building has already been flooded. (Reuters)

## Baghdad threatens sanctions 'battle'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A DEFIANT Iraq appeared set last night to escalate its dispute with the United Nations after the Security Council voted to maintain sanctions indefinitely to punish Baghdad for halting co-operation with weapons inspectors.

Babel, a leading newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, called for "decisive action". The Iraqi leadership must "choose the timing of a confrontation and take the initiative in battle", it said. It gave no indication what retaliation Baghdad might take, but the country's rubber-stamp parliament has already proposed cutting all bridges with the UN Special Commission (Unscom), the body set up to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Unscom has been allowed to continue routine monitoring despite a ban on intrusive inspections declared by Saddam on August 5. Disruption of the monitoring programme

would set alarm bells ringing, particularly after claims that Iraq is hiding three technologically complete nuclear bombs and is lacking only the fissionable materials to make them operational. The disclosure was made by Scott Ritter, a senior American arms inspector who resigned last month. Richard Butler, the Unscom chief, has already given a warning that the five-week-old stand-off has meant his men are no longer able to ensure Iraq is not trying to rebuild its weapons of mass destruction.

The state-run Iraqi press has made clear that the Government believes it has nothing to lose by defying the UN and is relying instead on the gradual erosion of the eight-year-old trade embargo. Saddam was also gambling that President Clinton was too distracted and weakened by the Lewinsky affair to take decisive action, diplomats said.

### Fugitive held

Rome: Licio Gelli, one of Italy's most wanted fugitives and former grandmaster of the outlawed P2 masonic lodge, has been captured in Caserta. Giorgio Napolitano, the Italian Interior Minister, announced. (Reuters)

### Minister rallies

Paris: Jean-Pierre Chevènement, 59, the French Interior Minister, has come out of a coma after more than a week and recognised members of his family, the Val de Grâce military hospital said.

### Square deal

Paris: The Place de la Concorde may be turned into a pedestrian precinct. Sources in the Paris Mayor's office say officials are leaning towards a ban on private cars as the best of three plans for the square.

### Thin blue whine

Oslo: About 500 Norwegian police will patrol streets here without pay on their day off to protest at lack of manpower and prove how safe the city can be. Fewer than 60 police are normally on patrol. (AFP)

**SHARPS**  
**BIGGEST EVER OFFER!**

Now's the time to buy a fitted bedroom or a home office from the UK's No.1. Just look at what's on offer. Don't miss out on your chance to get a great deal in Sharps Biggest Ever Offer.

**WIFE MOST BEDROOM DANGERS**

**HALF PRICE**

**20% OFF**

**SHARPS Bedrooms**

**SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE**

**GLoucestershire**

BASSINGBOURNE (Phone 01295 246 246)

BIRMINGHAM (Phone 0121 766 888)

BURTON (Phone 01773 555 555)

... [List continues with many more locations and phone numbers]

## Don't buy off the peg when you can save a fortune

ON AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGN...

It pays to be individual when you design and build your own home or convert a property. You get a home to suit your tastes, lifestyle and budget. And by cutting out a developer and his profit margin, you can save up to 30% on the cost of buying a standard ready built house 'off the peg'.

...at

**show for building and converting a home**

Over 150 specialist exhibitors. Properties to convert and land for sale. Hundreds of individual house designs. Finance. Home technology. Building materials. Hourly seminars for beginners. Interiors. Landscaping and much, much more...

**HALF PRICE TICKET**  
HOTLINE 0171 865 9042

**Self Build Homes show**

Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London  
September 17th - 20th

Opening times daily 10am-6pm

Normal price £7.50 per adult - only £3.75 with this coupon. Children under 16 FREE. Call 0171 865 9042 for extra half price tickets

**1/2 price one adult**

**1/2 price one adult**

سكزا من الأمل



RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

At school I was dyslexic and a dunce



In the final extract from his autobiography Richard Branson recalls the headmaster who warned him that he would either go to prison or become a millionaire — and how the first part of that prediction came true long before the second

When I was eight I was sent to board at Scatcliffe Preparatory School in Windsor Great Park. At the age of eight I still couldn't read. In fact, I was dyslexic and short-sighted. Dyslexia wasn't deemed a problem in those days — or was only a problem if you were dyslexic yourself. I was soon being beaten once or twice a week for doing poor classwork or confusing the date of the Battle of Hastings.

We then thought about linking up with other schools with similar rules. We settled on the name Student: this was the era of sit-ins, occupations and demos at universities and polytechnics. My mother lent me £4 as a float against the cost of phone calls and letters, and Jonny's father arranged for headed notepaper with STUDENT — THE MAGAZINE FOR BRITAIN'S YOUTH across the top with a symbol of a rising sun. We wrote to the contributors and possible advertisers.

I wrote a suicide note and gave it to a nosy boy

Very slowly, I left the building and walked through the grounds towards the cliffs. When I saw a crowd of teachers and boys running after me I slowed down enough for them to catch me up. They dragged me back and the expulsion was overturned. I then moved to Stowe, a public school in Buckinghamshire for more than 800 boys. One Easter holiday I decided to make some money. We had just moved to Tanyards Farm, a rambling building with many barns and sheds and some land. I talked my friend Nik into the plan. We would plant 400 fir trees at Tanyards Farm. By the Christmas after next, they would have grown to 4ft and we could sell them. We would share the profits equally.

One thing I knew from those who came in to chat or work for us was that they spent a lot of time listening to music and a lot of money buying records. There was tremendous excitement about music: it was political, anarchic. And I noticed that people who wouldn't spend 40 shillings on a meal wouldn't hesitate to spend that sum on a Dylan album. When I heard that, despite the Government's abolition of the Retail Price Maintenance agreement, none of the shops was offering discounted records I wondered if we could sell cheap mail-order records through the magazine. The first advertisement appeared in the final edition of Student and brought in a flood of inquiries — and more cash than we had ever seen. We decided to come up with another name for the mail-order business, one that would appeal not just to students. "Slipped Disc" was a favourite. Then one of the girls said: "What about 'Virgin'?" We're complete virgins at business.



Three ages of Branson: clockwise, aiming for new heights at the tender age of two; a prize moment on sports day at Scatcliffe school; student days

On the way to London, it dawned on me that I was carrying records that had apparently been exported; I had the customs stamp to prove it. I had paid no purchase tax on these records so I could sell them either by mail order or at the Virgin shop and make about £5,000 more than I could have done by the legal route. Two or three more trips and we would be out of debt. One day I set off for Dover again. Once my papers were stamped I drove around the dock and headed for London. It never occurred to me that I wasn't the only person who had stumbled across this scam.

The phone rang at midnight. The caller said I was about to be raided by Customs and Excise. We ran in and out of the warehouse, carrying records to the van. We had assumed that the officers would raid only the South Wharf warehouse so we took the records to the Oxford Street shop and put them in the racks to be sold. We had no idea that Customs has greater powers of immediate search than the police. I was charged under the Customs and Excise Act 1952. Part of my Stowe headmaster's prediction had come true: I was in prison.

That night was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I have always enjoyed breaking the rules. I had lived life on my own terms. Now I was in a cell and dependent on somebody else to open the door. I vowed that I would never again do anything that would cause me to be imprisoned — or to cause me to be embarrassed.

The UK's Best Buy for DVD

Advertisement for DVD products and services, including '333M-II DVD Family PC', 'Massive Software Bundle', and '12 Months Interest Free Credit'. Includes a list of software titles and contact information for Time.

Swimming for our lives



KRISTEN and I had been married for two years when we went on holiday to Mexico to try to patch up our failing marriage. One night some other tourists told us that this was the best place in the world for marlin and sailfish. We agreed that we would ask a fisherman to take us out the next day, but the fishermen were wary about going out. They explained that there was the possibility of a storm. "Come on, we've only got a couple more days here," I pleaded. "We'll pay you double." They accepted, and together with the two other tourists, we set out. Before long, the clouds gathered and it soon became clear that we were going to be caught up in the predicted storm.

around in circles. The rudder had jammed. The sea rose around us and the waves started breaking over the stern. The boat was being so badly smashed up that we were sure she would sink. After an hour of the worst storm any of us had ever experienced, the wind and rain abruptly stopped. It was eerily still. We must have been in the eye of the storm. Then we saw the other side of the storm coming, growing more threatening as it came nearer. "Richard, I think we should swim for it," Kristen said. "This boat won't take another storm." We argued with the fishermen and the tourists, who disagreed. The boat was about two miles away. The sea around us was an ugly, matt black colour, swelling high and boiling, with white foam flecked across the surface. I was terrified but I decided that Kristen was right. We all wished each other the best of luck and then Kristen and I jumped overboard. We had swum in the stormy sea for almost three hours by the time we hauled our way up through the surf and collapsed on to the sand.

't buy... n you save... me

Richard and Kristen Branson







1998 9 11



MAN ON TOP  
JOE JOSEPH

# Russia? Just ask my daughter for the answer

You might be surprised to learn that some people know nobody better able to unravel the mystery of Russia's current malaise than me (when I say "some people" I'm thinking particularly of my three-year-old daughter, who has a very narrow acquaintance of Russian experts), though I admit that I wasn't aware just how deep a mess Russia's economy was in until important world leaders began urgently asking Boris Yeltsin what he plans to do about it. When there is nobody left whom you can ask for strategic advice apart from Boris Yeltsin, then things have got about as scary as they can get.

Russia's political crisis is, of course, a result of not earning as much over the past year as it has been spending. This is essentially the same problem you have to confront when filing your own tax return, only on an even bigger scale. For one thing, it's not as easy for Russia to lay its hands on all the receipts its accountant needs to complete its "tax return". This is because the size of the shoebox needed to hold all Russia's receipts is the size of Murmansk (VELTSIN: I could have sworn I'd put that receipt for 327 fighter planes in this shoebox only last month, but I'll be damned if I can find it now).

Of course, Russia would find it much easier to meet its bills if money was still flowing in from foreign investors. But most foreigners have closed their wallets. Why? Because the idea behind investing your money somewhere is to make it work for you. But when the foreigners' money got to Russia it didn't seem all that keen on working. It picked up bad habits. It began drinking heavily, stayed out late and stopped bothering with its appearance: once crisp, new \$100 bills and £50 notes became grimy and began curling at the edges. Pretty soon those \$100 bills were down to their last \$10 and begging for handouts. So investors stopped sending their money to the Russian stock market, because by the time it came home again it looked so shabby that even Tory party fundraisers and TV evangelists wouldn't accept it.

This is why Russia now finds itself in the same awkward position that you find yourself in when you are visiting a fancy department store — dressed unconventionally because the only clean thing left in your wardrobe is that shirt your grandmother crocheted for you for Christmas 1987 — and the sales assistant takes your credit card warily and mumbles "There seems to be something wrong with the magnetic strip. I'll just phone through for authorisation" before rushing off to summon security. This is approximately the same feeling of trust Russia enjoys today.

The solution is for Russia to find a fresh source of export earnings beyond coal and wooden dolls. One under-exploited natural resource it has is a plentiful supply of consonants. Russia is sitting on far more consonants than it needs, having already crammed them into every nook of the language (bortsch, for instance, or Viktor Chernomyrdin); this is why the Russian language reads like a series of newspaper small ads (Car for sale, Vgd contin, Wild at lrrr drvr, Offrrr, which actually means "tuna sandwich, no mayo" in Russian). And as more Russians revert to living off the land — growing potatoes and cabbages and digging for their own coal to survive — more consonants are being dug up all the time: a peasant will be quietly scratching for coal when all of a sudden he'll hit a rich seam of consonants that have been fossilising underground for millions of years.

RUSSIAN PEASANT: "Hey Yevgeni, come look! I've found enough consonants to rewrite half the Russian language." YEVGENI (whose hobby is sweeping the local beaches with his metal detector looking for interesting lost consonants, which he then flaunts in linguistically alarming ways) replies: "Zhkyndylsky!" Since the fall of communism, Russia can no longer force satellite states such as Czechoslovakia (once Bohemia) to import its consonant mountain. But Italians, whose language is too vowel-heavy, could prove a lucrative export market. They should look at Garry Kasparov, who became so wealthy after becoming world chess champion that he could at last afford to buy an extra 'R' for his Christian name: it's the Moscow equivalent of buying personalised number-plates. Now Garry dreams of one day being rich enough to change his name to Garryrry. This export revenue could be swelled by a seven-figure sponsorship deal (which at current rouble exchange rates equates to a 37,658-figure sponsorship deal) with Nike, under which Russia would be renamed "Russia: Just Do It, for Heaven's Sake Boris!" and the Nike swoosh would be added to the Russian flag. Russia should be out of the financial woods in no time.

# Poetic giant with his feet on the ground

Seamus Heaney celebrates 30 years of poetry with a new selection. Interview by Erica Wagner



Seamus Heaney: "Lyric poetry is a matter of constant hope, but there have to be little projects to keep you going"

It has been said that he is the only poet capable of writing a love poem comparing the beloved to a skunk; perhaps he is also the only one who could make the answer to the question "what's your favourite colour?" interesting. That question was shouted from the audience last Sunday night when Heaney read from the latest selection of his work, *Opened Ground*, to a packed Piccadilly Theatre.

There was a thoughtful pause as the question settled in, and then: "Green," he said, laughing himself, and making us laugh. For his inclusion in the 1982 Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry, he had rebuked its editors, Andrew Motion and Blake Morrison: "... be advised my passport's green. No glass of ours was ever raised! To toast the queen." But his follow-up on Sunday had no political tint: "One favourite image of mine is the planet Earth seen from the astronaut's perspective; that wavery oval that is our Earth is very moving. I could make an ideological defence of green..." — and his voice trails off into laughter again.

There are some who hold this trailing off against him. Heaney is now nearly 60. For more than 30 years, since the publication of his first book, *Death of a Naturalist*, in 1966, he has risen from being a talented young poet, a Catholic Ulsterman and son of a Co Derry farmer to his present stature of poetic giant of his generation: he has been Professor of Poetry at Oxford, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard, and is now Ralph Waldo Emerson Poet in Residence at Harvard, a post held by Robert Frost and Robert Lowell before him. And then there is the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature.

His early rise, paralleling the growth of conflict in his native Northern Ireland, led many to expect him to take many to expect him to take many to expect him to take many to do so explicitly in his work has not met universal approval. When we meet, in the airy boardroom of his publishers, Faber & Faber, I ask if this is one of the difficulties of the lyric poet: balancing the beauty and pleasure of the work with the harshness of the subjects that come into the poet's line of sight. "I don't think the poet presents itself to you as a writer as, in inverted commas, the political," he says. His voice is soft and deep, his eyes narrow behind his glasses. He speaks easily in the kind of coherent paragraphs that most writers would be happy to produce after several revisions. "The Robert Frost description of a poem, which I've quoted and that lyric poetry is a very strange and rare instrument and that you can't expect a proportional yield between historical trauma and artistic yield."

The truth is that Heaney's poems deepen beyond politics or conflict. *North*, published in 1975, is laced with images of the "bog people", those eerily preserved bodies found in peat bogs, victims of violent and mysterious deaths. They refract, rather than reflect, the conflict in Northern Ireland. Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of Irish History at Oxford and the biographer of Yeats, says that when he first read those poems he thought: "So it can choice of it sheds an angled light on the way he now views his work: 'The complete freedom of it attracted me, and the slightly scampish quality of baby Jesus in His pet with what my mother would have called His little teapot! Perfectly poised, y'know? And there was something about the whirligig, the lightness of it, that goes with the account I had given of my own poetry that's printed there [the Nobel lecture, *Crediting Poetry*]. This guy's about lighting up, in a way. And true to the idea that the child is the father of the man — it doesn't have an immediate symbolic import. The thing is just itself, but if you pause with it, it can be read."

The same is true of Heaney's poetry, at its best: the thing is just itself, but if you pause with it, it can be read. It is this apparent expression of things and places as just themselves that is most remarkable about his work. "The best Heaney allows intelligence to remain within the organic forms he evokes, rather than stepping back," says fellow poet Andrew Motion. Citing Keats, he says: "We hate poetry that has a palpable design on us." Heaney is strongest when he resists the temptation to tell us, within a poem, what it means. That scampish quality is in Heaney, too: in his refusal to take himself too seriously, his occasional terrible pun (of a love poem written for his wife Marie, called *The Otter*, he says: "It's about 'the otter half'" and grins apologetically), his willingness to embrace the youthful curiosity about the world that kept him with his ear close to the radio when he was growing up, the eldest of nine children, on his fa-

ther's farm. "The image I have now of my life is of ripples moving out, which encompass more the older you get and the further you go, both intellectually and physically — and that which is doing the encompassing is an extension of your first being." "I like the sense that at the centre there's still that child with the whirligig, running, but he knows more in one way. At a certain point you satisfy your curiosity about the world, you try to learn and then you realise that nobody can help. You're left with yourself. This is the terrible thing, that you can then turn into yourself — that is the danger, when you become confident and a figure: that you turn the last ripple into a forficulation."

There seems little danger of that, despite his awareness that he is considered "a figure", worrying that his work is over-examined: "I am grateful, but I must forget it," he says. His work in *The Spirit Level*, his last volume of new poems published just after he won the prize he can hardly bring himself to name, is limber, sensuous, exact. Now he has nearly completed a translation of *Beowulf* — an exact translation, to be used as a parallel text by students: "None of your fancy stuff, none of your versions, none of your Christopher Logues," he says ruefully, comparing the work to "breaking stones for pleasure". Once *Beowulf* is finished, he says: "I have a notion. Of something I'll write. Lyric poetry is a matter of constant hope; but there have to be little projects, too, to keep yourself going." He once said he was tempted to call a volume of poems *Keeping Going*; he may have held back from that, but we may all be glad that keeping going is just what he intends to do.

# Some like it hot.

Catch our new global prices and save on all your international calls, by joining Swiftcall now! Instant connection, simple rates, 24 hours a day, every day. We have no hidden charges, so there are no burnt fingers — just hot prices from a cool company.

FreeCall 0800 769 0800 Business 0800 769 2222

|           |     |            |     |
|-----------|-----|------------|-----|
| Australia | 16p | Ireland    | 10p |
| Brazil    | 52p | Japan      | 18p |
| France    | 14p | N. Zealand | 20p |
| Germany   | 14p | S. Africa  | 36p |
| Hong Kong | 28p | UK         | 6p  |
| India     | 50p | USA        | 9p  |

Now **SWIFTCALL**

# Is your business good enough?

You have until October 31st to prove it.

A Queen's Award is the highest accolade that can be bestowed on a company in the UK. It helps attract business by demonstrating that your company is one of the best, in its field. If you've already received a 1999 application form, complete and return it now. If you'd like us to send you one, call 0990 134486 now. Or fill in the coupon and return to Queen's Awards Mailing Centre, P.O. Box 467, Prospect Centre, Norwich NR6 5AJ. Do you think your business is good enough? Prove it. Now.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick which application form(s) you require: Export  Technology  Environment

THE QUEEN'S REWARD FOR BUSINESS



# Hildegard's ministry for women

## Daniel Johnson on a medieval media nun with attitude

It is a striking photograph: 37 of the richest people in America, all media barons and worth \$1.4 trillion between them, captured by posterity by Annie Leibovitz of *Vanity Fair*. But the most striking thing about it is that only one of these Croesuses is a woman: Katharine Graham, the octogenarian proprietress of *The Washington Post*. Her splendid isolation is a reminder that, even at the end of the 20th century, men still call most of the shots. Feminism, the sexual revolution, the rise of the career woman — they have changed the division of labour, far less that of power.

This week I have been reflecting on another exceptional woman, who made her name in a culture which made no pretence of sexual equality. Hildegard of Bingen, the prophetic, was born 900 years ago in 1098 and died at the Nestorian age of 81 in 1179. Enclosed in a cell with an anchoress, Jutta, at the age of eight, she remained as a member and then head (she never called herself "abbess") of a growing community of nuns attached to the monastery of St Disibod, until in 1152 she led her noble virgins to found a new convent beside the Rhine.

In her long, turbulent life she broke every taboo while remaining strictly within the rules of mother Church: admonishing Popes and emperors, travelling around the Rhineland on preaching tours, writing on science and medicine (the *Causae et Curae*), defying abbots and archbishops at a time of war between Church and State. Her migraine-like visions, which she (or a skilled artist working under her supervision) depicted vividly in the illuminated manuscripts of her works, have been the subject of modern medical as well as theological study. She dispensed advice, therapy and futurology to the greatest and the humblest: a 12th-century combination of Marge Proops, Mystic Meg and Mother Teresa. Her canonisation was never completed, but she has always been revered as a saint anyway.

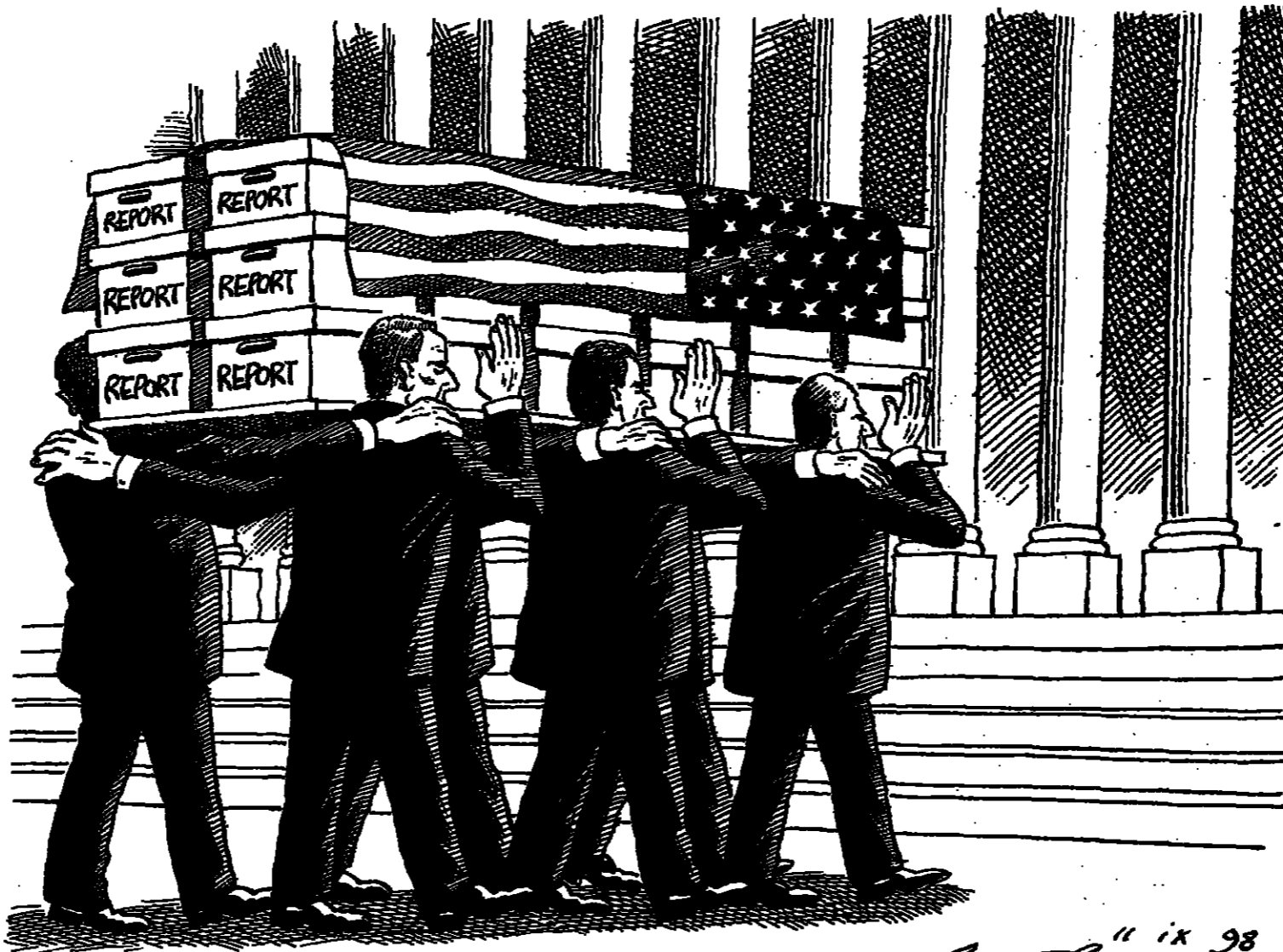
Hildegard's *Ordo Virtutum*, superbly performed at the Proms on Tuesday by the Cologne-based ensemble *Sequentia*, is the first morality play. Even if she had written or done nothing else, this music drama — a medieval precursor of Wagner's "total work of art" — depicting the soul's anguish, caught between the virtues and the Devil, would warrant a place in history for its author. As perfect an expression of its own epoch as it is president of the future, it adapts the allegorical use of virtues and vices in the Psychomachia of the 4th-century poet Prudentius, but heightens its effect by contrasting the melodious female voices of the virtues and the soul with the spoken male voice of "the dragon of old", *Ordo Virtutum* foretells such seminal myths as Faust and Don Juan, the moral dramas that nourished European civilisation from Dante to Dostoevsky.

But there was much more to Hildegard than the *Ordo Virtutum*. She wrote some 60 symphonies, or sacred songs, most of which *Sequentia* and other groups have now recorded. This corpus establishes her as a composer of the first rank, with a unique style that combines utmost simplicity with extraordinary melodic range and virtuosity. Her texts are no less her own, and show a similarly remarkable poetic genius, especially since her limited education vouchsafed her only a rough-and-ready grasp of Latin, and she saw herself as *indocua*, an ignorant woman. Modern (mostly male) scholars assumed that she could not possibly have written the books and musical compositions attributed to her, and that her faithful secretary, the monk Volmar, must have been her ghostwriter. That view rested more on prejudice than evidence.

Indeed, her fame among contemporaries rested on her reputation as a visionary woman of letters, the author of massive works of moral and metaphysical speculation, which in turn would never have been taken seriously had she not held an important position in society. Except through birth or marriage, the role of abbess was the pinnacle of feminine ambition in 12th-century Europe. Hildegard had passages from her first book of prophecy, the *Scivias* (which incorporates parts of the *Ordo*), read aloud by Pope Eugenius III at the Synod of Trier, where she was defended against suspicions of heresy by the great St Bernard of Clairvaux. She corresponded with other Popes, too, including the only English one, Adrian IV. Given the public nature of medieval letters, which were the equivalent of newspapers, she was exercising influence comparable to a modern media *grande dame* such as Katharine Graham.

But celebrity came at a price. Hildegard constantly had humility enjoined upon her by male ecclesiastics, from St Bernard downwards. The superior of another convent, Mistress Tengstater, even wrote her a sarcastic letter, taking her to task for the sin of pride by dressing her nuns in white silks and golden crowns, letting them wear their hair unbound, and accepting only rich daughters of the nobility. Hildegard replied with a magisterial missive: "O woman, what a splendid being you are! For you have set your foundation in the sun, and have conquered the world." Virgins, unsoftened as they are, cannot be bound by restrictions on dress. They are God's chosen.

At the end of the *Ordo Virtutum*, the Devil has some good lines. He jeers at Chastity, and thereby at the nun's condition: "For your belly is devoid of the beautiful form that woman receives from man; in this you transgress the command that God enjoined in the sweet act of love; so you don't even know what you are!" Celibacy was the sacrifice that Hildegard and her sisters made to achieve independence and, in her case, a rare creativity. Few modern women are bold enough to emulate her renunciation of the world, her *contemptus mundi*, but they should hesitate to feel superior to it. Look again at those male tycoons, Hildegard implies: if you want to beat them, don't join them.



# Start packing, Bill

## Clinton will blub, but it's much too late for sentiment, argues Tim Hames

The two black vans that drove the Starr report to Capitol Hill on Wednesday are the hearses of the Clinton presidency. The end is not so much nigh as sitting around impatiently awaiting its moment. The fat lady is not only singing but well into the second verse. Unless Kenneth Starr has produced 445 pages of disappointment, then the final arrival of his document is an unmitigated disaster for the White House. It will take a miracle on an epic scale to save Mr Clinton.

Less than three weeks ago on these pages I argued that the President was finished. His tenure, I contended, would be over by Christmas. At the time I thought this was a rather risky line to take (although nowhere near as dangerous as offering suggestions for the modernisation of the monarchy). It now appears that I was guilty of excessive caution. President Clinton will not be lighting the White House Christmas tree this year. I doubt whether he will preside over the Oval Office turkey at Thanksgiving (late November). At the rate at which Democrats are abandoning him, I believe he has two more weeks left in Washington.

The end will come as the President's enemies close in on several fronts. Mr Starr, the independent prosecutor, is still very much part of the picture. He has ordered back his grand jury to Washington and intends to continue his inquiries even though his handiwork is now with the House of Representatives. This can only mean that he intends to seek indictments against those figures in and around the Clinton White House whom he now thinks he can prove assisted the President in an obstruction of justice. Bruce Lindsay, Mr Clinton's closest political confidant, and Vernon Jordan, the first couple's most intimate private associate, must be very nervous men. They run the risk of imprisonment unless Mr Clinton pardons them as part of a package that includes his own resignation.

The House of Representatives will turn the screw on the President. Members of Congress would much rather Mr Clinton jump than that they had to push him. In the name of freedom of information they will release the core Starr report to press and public. They will also unveil enough of the corroborating material on Mr Clinton's apparently imaginative trysts with Monica Lewinsky to demolish the President's present ridicu-

lous contention that while Ms Lewinsky had sex with him, he did no such thing with her. The House will hold back the really sensational material. This will prove an exceptionally useful bargaining chip in the days ahead. Newt Gingrich will then turn over the whole issue of impeachment to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives and Henry Hyde, its widely respected chairman. The Starr report will thus saturate American television airwaves this weekend. More Democrats will come forward and profess their shock and outrage. The pundit class will dismiss the claim of Mr Clinton's law-

ble for him to soldier on with any semblance of credibility. At that point Hillary Clinton, who from the start has been a pivotal player in this saga, will again assume centre stage. There will be a small cabal at the White House urging the President to dig his heels in and withhold his resignation. Take your case to the people, they will encourage him, though it is out until the mid-term elections in November and make those contests a referendum on your future. The mere prospect of that campaign has already gone down with the Democrats like the proverbial lead airship. Nonetheless, it is possible that

if Mrs Clinton were part of this last-ditch camp, the President might be tempted to dare Congress to impeach him. This may, though, be asking for one act of loyalty too far for the First Lady. She is more than smart enough to realise that the chances of her husband saving himself range from nil to negative. She may regard a free first-class ticket on a kamikaze flight as less than appealing. If she has any ambitions for a meaningful private life, never mind as some speculate a political career, then it is time for her to keep her distance. An improbable alliance of convenience between Mr Starr, Mr Gingrich and Mrs Clinton may yet emerge with the express purpose of ensuring an orderly transfer of power. If so, we really are in the last days of the Clinton era.

It is not difficult to see how the men (and one woman) in grey suits will sell it to the President. If you go immediately, they will contend, there are numerous advantages. You will be seen as acting in the national interests. There will still be many Americans inclined to sympathise with your plight. You will retain some dignity as it would not be necessary for Congress to authorise the publication of every sordid sexual detail. You can pardon your friends. Mr Starr will promise not to pursue you through the courts. You will be acting in the interests of the Democratic Party. You

will be offering your devoted Vice-President Al Gore the maximum opportunity to build his own record. Above all else, the shooting party will note accurately, it will still be possible for you to start another career and even salvage your reputation much as Richard Nixon did after he lost office. The alternative is an impeachment melodrama that will utterly destroy you.

This will be an almost unanswerable case, especially as Mr Clinton's lawyers will be advising him that his legal situation is all but hopeless. From there will come the resignation speech, the last helicopter ride to Little Rock, and Mr Gore's inauguration. In different form Mr Gore will echo Gerald Ford's speech in similar circumstances 24 years ago when he told Americans that "Our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works; our great Republic is a Government of laws and not men."

Doubtless, there will then be endless analysis of what the whole Clinton-Lewinsky calamity can tell us about the meaning of modern America. A disproportionate amount of these accounts will be written by those from the Hollywood fraternity who will castigate a small set of religious retards and accuse them of "moral McCarthyism". Bill Clinton's story, it will be said, is a tragedy worthy of the Ancients. A sad tale of a man with undoubted immense talent tempered by irresistible temptation. Only in the United States, many wise figures will intone, could any of this happen.

There certainly is a wider story here but it is almost embarrassingly simple. It has little to do with sex and everything to do with abuse of power. For most of this year commentators have informed us that a strong economy would save Mr Clinton from his ethical failings. The problem, we were told, would not stomach the removal of Wall Street's preferred politician. It was even intimated that Americans had "become French" in their attitude towards sexual conduct. Perjury in the political sphere did not matter much either. All nonsense. To put it crudely, the United States has indeed witnessed a titanic struggle over the past eight months between the Ten Commandments and the Dow Jones index. The triumph of those few words — "Thou shalt not bear false witness" — is almost with us.

If he goes now, he might be able to salvage his name

# Face value

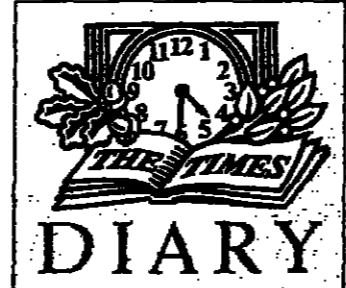
THAT proud peacock, Lord Glenconner, has undergone a series of face-lifts. Vanily, however, is not the main reason for his Narcissus complex. Rather, he is telling friends that he underwent plastic surgery in New York because he hopes a younger visage will help his business interests. The Glenconner coffers are so depleted after years of gorging living on the beach that he is planning to move into a tent on Mustique with his wife, a lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret, to keep his running costs to a minimum. "He's had several face-lifts," confirms Emma Tennant, his half-sister. Glenconner (right) turned Mustique, a barren, mosquito-ridden rock, into a holiday camp for the jet-set and Princess Margaret in the Sixties. But in the Seventies he flogged most of the island for peanuts and moved into the hotel industry in nearby St Lucia with a bunch of Arabs.



Stage invites "big fat lardy-boys eating pies and supping 15 pints a night, who do more dribbling with mouths than feet" to join a *Mid-diesbrough XI*. Lookalikes of Jimmy "five bellies" Gardner, *Gazza's* thoughtful sidekick, are welcome.

## Song of life

HOW embarrassed is George Michael about his arrest for lewd behaviour? The singer (right) has been scouring London parks for a



suitable pitch to record a new video for his next single, *Outside*. Its lyrics give a whole new meaning to public service: "Let's go outside in the moonshine! Take me to the places I love best! And yes I've been bad! You see I think about it all the time! I'd service the community (But I already have you see) I never really said it before."

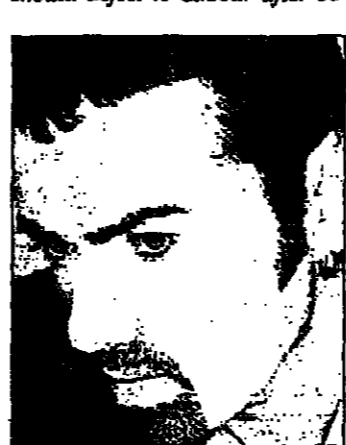
JOHN MAJOR has been replaced by a board. Carlton Club visitors yesterday saw a portrait of Major hanging lopsided. Fears that Thatcherites had made a violent gesture have been allayed. "He was displayed downstairs, but we need a new noticeboard."

## Worst of times

GEORGE BEST has had a hard night. The thirsty former footballer

says he was having a quick drink with his son Calum in his Chelsea local. The Phenix Arms, "when the doors burst open and a dozen blokes charged in and set about us". Besty tells me: "I think it's the price of fame. Who wants to attack a 17-year-old because his Dad once played for Manchester United?" Calum, who I presume was on soft drinks, was unharmed, but Best received "a kaleidoscope of bruises". Further domestic problems: the young Mrs Best, Alex, "fell over" and broke her arm working in the new marital flat and is in hospital. A bottle of vodka to speed Besty and his folks to recovery.

Peter Temple-Morris knew he should defect to Labour after being handbagged 20 years ago: "I published a pamphlet on abolishing the hereditary principle," he writes in *Tribune*. "Thatcher wheeled around: 'Peter, I have read your pamphlet, and marched off, handbag in hand. I did not see a happy future in the party.'"



Party poopers IT WAS to be William Hague's triumph — ensuring lots of political virgins. He proclaimed a target of about 150,000 young members but an internal memo being tossed around Central Office, a copy of which has come my way, discloses that new members under 36 total a paltry few hundred. Tory Central Office is disinclined to make the figure public: "We don't have that information." Handy, that.

## Private role

SOPHIE WARD (above) is to come out to her peers. The actress left her husband for a muscular female with whom, cleverly, she now plans to have a baby. She will unburden herself to the first meeting of the sexuality section of *Equity*. Open all, even *Coronation Street* will discuss the "interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual members". I am told: "He is one of about ten Danish Catholics."



husband for a muscular female with whom, cleverly, she now plans to have a baby. She will unburden herself to the first meeting of the sexuality section of *Equity*. Open all, even *Coronation Street* will discuss the "interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual members". I am told: "He is one of about ten Danish Catholics."

JASPER GERARD

## Philip Howard

### Setting a cat among the pigeon and mutton pies

In Heaven there'll be no algebras, / No learning dazes or names, / But only playing golden harps! And reading Henry James. The beach, however, requires something less heavenly than Henry. His deep streams of unconscious cerebration should be read from a garden chair in a stately lawn on a summer afternoon beside a richly garnished table and a couple of countesses. The beach calls for a light episodic book that can be dumped fast in order to rescue toddler Tom who has been dumped again by the rollers, or to build another Maginot Line in the sand against the Atlantic.

It should also provide an escape from the flash and crackle of contemporary news. My beach book was a bestseller about the supposed golden age of Victorian values 160 years ago. It propelled a pseudonymous young hack into world-celebrity. And its plot concerns a stream of grotesque sexual encounters, vicious mutual abuse by politicians, lawyers and editors, continual misadventures on public transport, and the propriety of eating cats. In a week when the media were full of shock-horror about a Vicenza cookbook with recipes for marinated cat, this came as proof that there's nothing new under the sun on the beach.

Favourably or cast-iron is not as new as we suppose. The traditional French nursery rhyme, *C'est la mère Michella! Qui a perdu son chat, ends in passy pie*. And there are those who raise an eyebrow at the diet of Wodehouse's Claude Catesmeat Potter-Firbright. He is famous for once hitting the cold "game" pie, set on a table in the middle of the Drones dining room, six consecutive times with bread rolls thrown from a seat by the far window. They still speak of Catesmeat's emotion when the bread roll he picked up squeaked loudly and a mouse ran out. Strong men had to rally round with brandy. But his nickname was probably made up by wags at the Drones Club making fun of Claude's second name, Cattermole. (Henry Brougham Guppy's *History of Family Names in Great Britain*, 1890, lists Cattermole as a name "peculiar to Suffolk, but offers no guidance about its etymology.")

But the *locus classicus* of cat-eating took place at a picnic in Suffolk early in September, fictionally in 1828, published 1836-7. "Werry good thing is weal pie, when you know the lady as made it, and is quite sure it art kittens; and arter all though, where's the odds, when they're so like weal that the wery piemen themselves don't know the difference?" And Sam Weller plunges into one of his stories as tall and hairy as the Beast of Bodmin about how to season a badkin kitten to make a beefsteak, veal, mutton or steak and kidney pie at a minute's notice, just as the market changes and appetites "wary".

The misadventures of Mr Pickwick, the amorous Mr Tupman and the cad Jingle with the fairer sex are not as sexually explicit as today's. And they have a politically incorrect Victorian tendency to find middle-aged spinsters funny. But Rachael Wardle, Miss Withersfield (the middle-aged lady in yellow curls) whose bedroom is invaded by Pickwick, Martha, Blandish with her breach of promise action, and all the other comely or conniving females would be quite at home in a modern front-page splash.

Pickwickian politicians are as pompous and indistinguishable as today's. Mr Pott, editor of the *Eatonsville Gazette*, "with a face in which solemn importance was blended with a look of unfathomable profundity," could deputise for most of the editors of today's nationals. Mrs Leo Hunter's party for literary lions is just a modern book launch, with everybody looking over everybody else's shoulder to see if there is something more important to talk to. And those frantic chases and accidents in post-chaises and wagons anticipate by two centuries our own dear Circle or North-cen Lines. Stop with jerk — tunnel — all fall down — driver says signal failure — station announcer disagrees — suspect package — both inaudible — "customers" packed like sardines — dripping sweat not oil — face for work as usual.

It goes on too long. The interpolated ghost and other stories may be skipped. But Pickwick shows that the English character and English news have not changed much in two centuries. Both are funny, in parts.

A TEAM apeing Paul Gascoigne and co is forming. The

سكزا من الأهل





## MADISON'S MOMENT

Key decisions for Congress as impeachment looms

The United States boasts the world's oldest and shortest functioning national constitution. That brevity has been the reason for its longevity and is the effective secret of the American Constitution. The language combines high principle with considerable ambiguity. That has allowed each generation the opportunity to recast those words to suit the temper of its time. The fundamental tenets that James Madison and the other founding fathers imparted are as powerful today as they were in the 1780s. In that sense, Americans enjoy a living Constitution. The application of Madison's document is, though, a matter of some flexibility.

This is perhaps especially true of Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution. This states, in a simple fashion, that "The President, Vice-President and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." That phrase combines some specific offences with the open-ended notion of "misdemeanors". The meaning of that term will shortly become the centre of Washington political speculation. The President's legal team has already claimed that a report — that it has not yet had the opportunity to read — could not represent grounds for President Clinton's impeachment.

There will be few outside the White House who can accept such a contention. The moving spirit of Madison's text is that public officials should be removed for abuse of office. There can be little doubt that perjury and obstruction of justice, even in the context of a sexual liaison, fall within this definition. It will not help Mr Clinton if he complains that Franklin Roosevelt or John Kennedy conducted adultery without legal sanction. They were never asked to tell the truth on oath about these matters before a grand jury. The President needs to contest the facts,

if he can, not take on the Constitution. The House of Representatives must now decide what to do with the report and boxes of material that Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, has placed in their possession. This is a solemn occasion that must be shorn of all partisanship. Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, has made an excellent start with the tone he has adopted. He is surely right to seek the release of the central Starr tome to a wider audience. That is much better than the thousand leaks that would have followed if he had taken any other decision. The public has a right to know what it is that Congress is considering.

The central issues for the House now are those of procedure and timetable. The Judiciary Committee will now review what they have received and make more of it available. They will then devote the remainder of this session — which was expected to end in little more than a month — deciding whether to ask the full House to vote on impeachment. That debate cannot realistically take place with mid-term elections in November as the backdrop. Nor can the question be delayed until the new Congress comes together in January 1999. The Speaker will have to be prepared to ask his colleagues to return to their duties shortly after the electorate has spoken.

Even if matters proceed smoothly, American public life will be paralysed in the interim. Neither domestic nor foreign policy can be conducted as usual. The impeachment mechanism might take a number of months to run its course. If the President can demonstrate that the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice are false, and do so in a manner that does not rely on incredible legal constructions, then he is entitled to remain in the White House and fight his corner. If he cannot, he would spare the United States and the world an appalling ordeal if he preempted such events with his resignation.

## TRAPPIST TORIES

Conservatives for monetary union should speak up or shut up

Tories who support the single currency adopted a new tactic this week: to abstain from the debate. William Hague's decision to hold a snap ballot of all Tory members on the issue challenged the single currency's enthusiasts to make their case. For years they have argued that their views are shared by many Tories throughout the country, and must be reflected in Conservative European policy. But instead of picking up Mr Hague's gauntlet to prove this, they have walked away in a sulk, damaging their cause and credibility.

The supporters of monetary union justify their strategy of non-cooperation in a number of ways. Their tenuous excuses smack of a schoolboy's forged sicknote. Sir Edward Heath claims that Mr Hague is trying to get "his own way without proper discussion within the party". Sir Edward must have slept through the years of noisy internecine warfare that lost his party the last election. Far from there being too little debate, there has been too much. It has raged ever since John Major returned from Maastricht. The arguments for and against Britain's membership have been played out so often they have become the Tories' golden oldies. A clear victory for Mr Hague will allow the Tories a belated "proper discussion" about other important issues, such as welfare reform, the constitution, the family.

The next excuse of the single currency's supporters is based on party loyalty. The worst result is a foregone conclusion, they argue, as no loyal Tory would vote against the leadership. This will indeed be the case if there is no campaign to spell out the benefits of the single currency. Kenneth Clarke claims that he "prefers campaigning against the Labour Party than members of my own party". Yet many Conservatives think Mr Clarke is on thin ice to don the mantle of party loyalist: his mischievous and vociferous support for the single currency during the last Parliament rocked the Major Government on a number of occasions. If Mr Hague's policy receives overwhelming

support, will the former Chancellor continue to tour the television studios to attack the party's position?

The ballot will not, as the former minister Ian Taylor claims, "lock in divisions within the party". It is likely to prove what many suspect: that supporters of monetary union, who have forced their views upon Conservative European policy, represent a minority of Tories. Mr Hague could legitimately claim that these differences will only be "locked in" if his opponents choose to highlight them.

The most valid criticism is that Mr Hague's ballot will not end the debate over the single currency. The Tory leader is indeed wrong if he believes the result will ensure that Tory divisions are "a legacy of the past". But this does not mean the referendum is a worthless exercise. A good win for Mr Hague will give him the authority needed to claim that he, not Mr Clarke or Michael Heseltine, speaks for the majority of the Tory party.

Advocates of EMU are afraid of this outcome. They are pinning their hopes on a low turnout, so they can argue that the ballot was unrepresentative, thereby giving Mr Hague a pyrrhic victory. This strategy will backfire. They will be accused of lacking the courage of their convictions. If they dare not even put their views to their own party, why should the public listen to them?

Refusal to participate in this debate is the worst course that Mr Clarke, Mr Heseltine and Lord Hurd of Westwell could take. If they care about principle and party as much as they claim, if they believe Mr Hague's opposition to a single currency is misguided, they should enter the fray. If they fail to do so, and then continue to snipe at Mr Hague's policy from the back benches and boardrooms where they now lurk, they will deserve any scorn Tories will heap upon them. To adapt Gaitskell, they plan to abstain and abstain and abstain for the party they love. This is hardly an honourable strategy for the big beasts of the Tory jungle.

## HARD SCIENCE

Experiments in the laboratory of the future

This week the British Association for the Advancement of Science is holding its annual festival in Cardiff. The usual complement of unconventional snippets are emerging: atavistic tortoises could trot, apparently; and a magnetic man is trying to prove the paranormal by picking up metal with his forehead. But the festival also provides a more serious forum for a rational analysis of ideas. This year scientists are debating with the public about the development of genetically modified foods and exploring ethical and environmental issues.

Professors may wince at a vulgarisation of their life-work. But they must grin and go on, recognising that the prime purpose of the festival is to restore excitement to science. For 100 many years scientists have been dismissed as lacklustre boffins who, when it came to style or panache, made the general public look like the Bloomsbury set. For too many schoolchildren the teaching of science has been a laboured progress through arid realms strewn with the bleached bones of discarded theories. Only through expanding public understanding can the true challenge or alarm of scientific discovery be reanimated.

At the British Association festival in 1851, an established ethos was shattered by an argument over Darwinian evolution between Bishop Wilberforce and Thomas Henry Huxley. Men who went to bed believing themselves superior spiritual beings awoke the next morning with the knowledge that they were only developed apes. Since then Darwinian theories have informed most understandings of society and its structures.

In the present day, a scientific spokesman such as Richard Dawkins performs a similar function. He may be criticised for his aggressive stance against religion, but by inflaming animosity or inspiring accord, he sharpens the cutting edge of dialogue. Knowledge does not arise from spontaneous intuition. Questions cannot be adequately answered by instinct or emotion. Understanding arises from a balance of scientific appraisal and philosophical judgment. To foster a public understanding of science, therefore, is not simply to encourage an enriching enthusiasm, but to equip a generation to tackle the practical problems and moral dilemmas it will face in the future.

## Healthcare under attack in Kosovo

From the Chairman of the British Medical Association Ethics Committee

Sir, There are daily press reports of arrests, disappearances and killings in Kosovo. No reasonable observer can be in any doubt that ethnic cleansing is taking place. What people may not realise is that the assault on human rights stretches into every aspect of daily life, including people's access to healthcare.

The British Medical Association has a long-standing commitment to monitor and expose human rights abuses, particularly where these affect the healthcare of populations, or restrict doctors' freedom to practise.

Last week, the BMA received an authoritative report from the Johannes Wier Foundation, a Dutch medical group for human rights, following a visit to Kosovo. The report details the effects that gross breaches of medical neutrality, and a policy of segregation of healthcare, have had on the health of ethnic Albanians.

The Serb authorities have dismissed Albanian health professionals, which means that ethnic Albanians now have access only to an informal health system, staffed largely by volunteers. They can provide at best a patchy, and at worst a severely substandard pattern of care. The report also documents the disappearance of doctors who have treated war casualties, particularly the Kosovo-Albanian military, and the detention of a prominent medical member of the local Red Cross. These actions are in contravention of the four Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, and should be deplored.

There is a serious lack of effective monitoring of breaches of medical neutrality, both in Kosovo and elsewhere. The BMA has, with other health and human rights organisations, called for the establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur on the Integrity and Independence of Health Professionals.

Meanwhile, the BMA urges the UK Government, as a member of the United Nations and the European Union, to ensure that these abuses of human rights are confronted, and those responsible brought to justice.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WILKS,  
Chairman, BMA Ethics Committee,  
British Medical Association,  
BMA House,  
Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JP,  
September 9.

## Advising the monarch

From Ms Harriett Perry Robinson

Sir, Tim Hames [report and article, September 7; see also letters, September 9] would make the monarchy not the people's voice but the Government's poodle. He seems to want to replace the "minor aristocracy" in the Royal Household with a fashionable coterie of his own.

The Royal Family have shown themselves recently much more responsive to popular feeling than has any recent elected government. The Royals are the archetypal cross-benchers. If reform of the House of Lords is to be carried through on party lines it is crucial that the monarchy retains its powers and the Royals choose their own advisers.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRIETT PERRY ROBINSON,  
34 Freshfield Street,  
Brighton,  
East Sussex BN2 2ZG,  
September 7.

From Mr F. M. M. Steiner

Sir, The idea of a plebiscite on the successor whenever a reign comes to an end is impracticable. One of the great advantages of hereditary monarchy is the automatic, immediate and wholly predictable succession ("The King is dead; long live the King").

To introduce uncertainty and delay through an inevitable hiatus makes nonsense of the whole system — unless that is the real aim of the authors of the Demos report. Neither do they seem to have dealt with the embarrassing position of a head of state sworn in after approval by a referendum, with a sizeable minority of anti votes.

Yours faithfully,  
F. M. M. STEINER,  
5 Chappans Lane,  
Deddington, Banbury,  
Oxfordshire OX15 0SU,  
September 7.

## Safety in the air

From Sir Malcolm Field, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority

Sir, In your leading article of September 2 you state that the West Drayton air control centre has "recorded too many near misses and air incidents for safety" (see also letters, September 4). In point of fact, our assessment of the number of risk-bearing aircraft proximity incidents in which system failure or an error by one of our controllers was a causal factor is 16 in 1996, ten in 1997 and eight so far this year.

I would also point out that UK air traffic control is not responsible for the majority of the flight delays suffered by passengers arriving at or leaving UK airports — fewer than 7 per cent of those during June were attributable to UK restrictions. Progress has

## Menace of 'toxic' spread of bracken

From Professor Emeritus Jim Taylor, Chairman of the Bracken Advisory Commission

Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, August 29) and your correspondents (September 5) dispute the proposed spending by the National Trust of £3.5 million to buy Snowdon. There is a better Welsh cause, in my view, which could substantially improve conditions for hard-pressed hill farmers. I refer to the urgent and on-going need to tackle the encroachment on our countryside by bracken — a weed which curbs biodiversity and detracts from the traditional beauty of our landscape.

Bracken is not only a persistent and obtrusive weed. It is also toxic and carcinogenic. It poses health risks to animals, both wild and domesticated (proven), and possibly to humans (not yet proven, but research continues) during the sporing period from approximately August 20 to approximately September 21. Bracken areas are best avoided between these dates, and anyone who has to enter them at that time is advised to wear a simple face-mask which will avoid any intake and ingestion of spores.

We await the delayed arrival, early in 1999, of the agri-environment scheme which includes grants for

bracken spraying and still requires ratification by Brussels. In the meantime, bracken advances unchecked in many areas, at rates of 1 per cent to 3 per cent per annum; it covers 110,000 hectares of Wales — equal to the combined areas of the Snowdonia National Park, the Pembrokeshire National Park and Anglesey.

We should be aiming at reversing encroachment, not merely reducing it. The Forest Authority has recently set the pace by providing substantial grants to remove deep bracken and introducing mixed tree plantings, with the emphasis on deciduous species. Parallel grant schemes are required to convert bracken zones into quality pastures.

It would be difficult to identify a more deserving and rewarding cause than this for enhancing the Welsh countryside — restoring good slopeland, increasing farm productivity and profits, reducing environmental health risks and easing the burden for future generations.

Yours etc,  
J. A. TAYLOR, Chairman,  
The Bracken Advisory Commission,  
Clyn Ceiro, Dole, Bow Street,  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY24 5AE,  
September 6.

## High emotion at Manchester United

From Mr Stuart D. Kershaw

Sir, As an expatriate Mancunian who goes way back to the 1948 Cup Final, Mr Murdoch's impending purchase of Manchester United is the best news I have heard in years. Maybe, with him in charge, United can at last start punching its weight.

Over the last seven years or so, since it floated on the Stock Exchange, Manchester United plc has only been successful because the competition from other clubs, in management terms, was woeful. Now it is time to move on.

I suspect the fans who are hostile to this takeover are the same ones who bemoan the fact that the middle classes are about to take over at Old Trafford. Excellent, I say. Where else would the management tolerate a situation where the fans cannot get a ticket, or, even if they can, they cannot see the game because people refuse to sit down? This happens every week in the North Stand.

Why would the management be happy to accommodate 56,000 people every week, when 85,000 want to attend?

Yours faithfully,  
STUART D. KERSHAW,  
Woodlands,  
9 Tretawn Park,  
Mill Hill, NW7 4PS,  
September 6.

From Mrs June Hall

Sir, My grandparents and parents were born in Newton Heath, Manchester, and I lived in the city as a child at the time of the Munich air disaster.

Like many people who moved away, I have continued over the years to support "The Team" in spirit, alongside the majority of my family who remain in Manchester.

After hearing yesterday's news I said something previously unthinkable over dinner to my husband. I told him I actually envied him his team. Having seen him reach the depths of despair as a Manchester City sup-

porter, I suppose we can now wallow in misery together.

Yours,  
J. HALL,  
3 Wingfield Close,  
Ewelme, Oxfordshire OX10 6JY,  
September 7.

From Mr David Newton

Sir, When any company is listed it is a simple fact of free-market economics that the share price will fluctuate and companies may, from time to time, become the subject of interest to both buyers and sellers.

People who have their heart in Manchester United Football Club could and should collectively have bought more than 50 per cent of the equity; then, and only then, they would have been in a strong enough position to decline the current advance of the board to accept BSkyB's £625 million offer and this emotional dilemma could have been averted.

Yours very sincerely,  
DAVID NEWTON,  
(Non-shareholder of MUFC or BSkyB),  
The Willows, Cherry Park,  
Balloch, Inverness IV1 2HG,  
zdjn@aol.com  
September 9.

From Mr George Edwards

Sir, I welcome the recent advances to Manchester United, and the continued replacement of football in the mainstream TV schedules with "pay per view", which I can easily avoid.

I wonder if Mr Murdoch would consider bidding for the cricket Test matches, and removing them from BBC Radio 4 to a "pay per listen" station?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE EDWARDS,  
20 Fairways Drive,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire HG2 7ES,  
gedwards@ismstowe-dev.demon.co.uk  
September 7.

## Repelling the beasts

From Mr Frank Day

Sir, The midges at Lake Myvatn (pronounced Mevat) in northeast Iceland (letter, September 9; see also letter, September 5) may well be closely related to those found in Scotland; but in general they do not bite, nor do they buzz like the mosquito, and they are usually only a problem for a short time during the summer months.

They tend to swarm about the head and face, and trying to fan them away with one's hand seems only to attract more of them. The secret is to raise the arm high into the air and to extend one's fingers, as the midges are attracted to the highest part of the body.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK DAY  
(Accountant), Arctic Experience Ltd,  
29 Norfolk Way,  
Banstead, Surrey SM7 1PB,  
September 10.

## Stanching the tears

From Dr D. J. T. Wright

Sir, While holidaying in the South of France this summer, and on being summoned prematurely from my customary 20 lengths of the pool by a request to prepare vegetables for the evening barbecue, I unwittingly stumbled across the solution to a perennial problem.

How do you stop the chopping of onions from making your eyes water? The answer? Swimming goggles.

I offer this discovery to all future sous-chefs and, as a result, believe that the number of the world's minor irritants has now been reduced by one.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
yours faithfully,  
DAVID WRIGHT,  
Yew Tree House,  
Longparish, Andover,  
Hampshire SP11 6PT,  
September 8.

## Church services 'on the cheap'

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, Of course the Shropshire vicar who overcharged for weddings and funerals should not have done so (report, September 9). We are all under suspicion as a result, and another undeserved black mark is added to the reputation of thousands of diligent, honest clergymen.

It would be interesting to find out, however, how much those who were overcharged were prepared to spend on flowers, photographers, cars, printing, the reception and the honeymoon. In my experience the photographer, for example, asks — and usually receives without question — a great deal more than the £25 which I receive for conducting a wedding; and that includes the preparation visits. I would gladly do it for nothing if I thought the happy couple seriously intended to fulfil their vows, or ever attend the church again.

Most couples never return, which makes me think we are merely being used, and our services are therefore too cheap. Will there still be churches or clergy at all when their children want to enter "the holy estate of matrimony"? Or perhaps marriage will increasingly be a civil, secular, provisional, unholy alliance, and jolly expensive at that.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN GREGORY,  
18 The Avenue, Basford,  
Newcastle, Staffordshire ST5 0LY,  
September 9.

## The Leach legacy

From Mr Alan F. Gillam

Sir, Jane Schoplin's reference (letter, September 4) to "that magic postwar gathering of artists in St Ives" may be valid but provides a restricted view of the town's art scene today.

As it has been for much of the last century, St Ives is home to one of the most important art colonies in Europe. With around 80 galleries, studios and shops selling original work, it is also reputed to be the third largest art market in the UK. Far from being "defunct", the Leach Pottery is part of this scene, with Trevor Corser and Joanna Wason, who both worked with the Leaches, producing and selling work in the style of and with the same facilities and equipment which they used. In contrast, Barbara Hepworth's studio has become a static display with "hordes of people traipsing through" as your correspondent correctly observes.

The suggestion that the Tate Gallery be involved in "saving" the Leach legacy is not new, although what is usually meant is actually its commercial development as a tourist site. Few would dispute the enormous commercial success of the Tate in St Ives or its benefits to the town's economy; however, its relevance to the current artistic life of the area is a hotly contested local issue.

Perhaps the Leach Pottery buildings are a bit run down and perhaps a more lively teaching role could be developed for the site. But even if it did provide a boost to tourism, the conversion of a working pottery into another museum would do no favours for its current users or original creators, and in the long run would be of no benefit to St Ives.

Yours faithfully,  
A. F. GILLAM,  
17 Tregenna Terrace,  
St Ives, Cornwall TR26 2ND.

## Oxford business school

From Professor Bryan Reuben

Sir, Jeremy Dixon, architect of the Oxford business school, is quoted (report, September 4) as saying of its proposed tower: "Ours has to have a function and it will carry illuminated digital faces... telling the time and the temperature." My recollection is that Queen's and Christ Church already have clock towers, so that leaves only the temperature as unique.

Surely the least we should expect from the school is the FTSE 100, the Dow Jones and the Nikkei indices plus the dollar-pound exchange rate. And what about the latest cricket score from the Parks, a minute-by-minute update of the Nottingham league table of colleges and (please) the time of the next down train from the adjacent railway station?

Yours sincerely,  
BRYAN REUBEN,  
7 Clarence Avenue, SW4 8LA,  
reubenbg@sba.ac.uk

## Spirit Zone

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Mr A. C. Phillips (letter, September 9) claims that the practice of counting in multiples of ten has nothing to do with religion, and the millennium has more to do with metrication.

Who then created mankind with ten digits, ensuring that from the earliest times all civilisations would reckon in decades, centuries and millennia, and enabling the psalmist (possibly Moses) to declare that a thousand years in His sight were like a watch in the night? I offer no opinion as to whether the watch was digital, or had luminous hands.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL MACNICOL,  
9 Church Lane, Greetham,  
Oakham, Rutland LE15 7NF,  
September 9.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 10: The Prince Edward, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, today carried out the following engagements in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the XVI Commonwealth Games.

Bukit Jalil. His Royal Highness later visited the International Broadcasting Centre and afterwards visited the Club Aman cricket ground to watch the match between South Africa and Northern Ireland.

Birthdays today

Professor Norman Ashton, FRCS, pathologist, 85; Mr Franz Beckenbauer, footballer, 53; Sir Austin Bide, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 83; Dame Margaret Booth, former High Court judge, 65; Mr Paul Cole, racehorse trainer, 57; Mr Brian De Palma, film director, 54; Mrs Mary Fagan, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, 59; Sir Bernard Feldman, architect, 79; Mr Eddie George, Governor, Bank of England, 60; Lord Gibson-Watt, 80; Mr William Knight, senior partner, Simmons & Simmons, 53; Lord Marlesford, 67; Lord Mayhew of Twickenham, 69; Mr Bernard Matthews, 69; Mr Barry, motorcycling champion, 48; Sir Neville Simms, Group Chief Executive, Tarmac, 54; the Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of Winchester, 84; Mr Roger Utley, former rugby player, 49.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pierre de Ronsard, poet, Vendôme, France, 1535; Henri de la Tour d'Auvergne, Vicomte de Turenne, Marshal of France, Sedan, 1611; Mrs Elizabeth Rowe, poet, Ilchester, Somerset, 1674; James Thomson, poet and author of The Seasons, Ednam, Roxburghshire, 1700; Arthur Young, agriculturist, London, 1741; Thomas Barnes, Editor of The Times 1817-41, London, 1875; O. Henry (William Sydney Porter), short-story writer, Greenvboro, North Carolina, 1862; Sir James Jeans, mathematician and astronomer, London, 1877; D.H. Lawrence, novelist, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, 1885.

Service luncheon

Kumaon Regiment
Brigadier A.L. Fowler presided at the annual luncheon of the Kumaon Regiment, Indian Army, held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's, London.

Battle of St George's Cay

The High Commissioner for Belize was the first last night at a bicentenary celebration of the national day of Belize (September 21), marked by a re-enactment of the Battle of St George's Cay (September 10, 1798), a reading by Mr Robert Hardy and Beating Retreat on Horse Guards. Later, a reception and Buccaneers' Ball took place at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

Service dinner

Royal Yeomanry
General Sir Jeremy Blacker, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry, presided at the inaugural dinner of the Regiment's Officers' Dining Club held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Major-General Sir Desmond Rice, the Regiment's first Commanding Officer, was present.

Memorial service

Lord Swaythling
A memorial service will be held for Lord Swaythling at 5.00pm on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8.



The new Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Tom Butler, left, meets the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, on London Bridge, where their dioceses meet. The enthronement ceremony for the new bishop takes place tomorrow

Saintly bones pass scientific tests

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT
TO THE surprise of some scientists, but to the pleasure of the Roman Catholic Church, some of the reputed remains of St Chad, Saxon Bishop of Mercia in the 7th century, seem to be the real thing. Venerated at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham for the past century and a half, at least three and perhaps five of the six human bones enshrined in the saint's reliquary come from the same individual, and he was alive at the right time.

Legal appointments

Sir Nicholas Phillips has been appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary from January 12 replacing Lord Lloyd of Berwick who is retiring on December 31.

Church news

Church of the Holy Spirit, Spain (Europe): to be Chaplain, Helsinki St Nicholas, Finland (same diocese).

Latest wills

David John Joseph Byrns, of Great Glen, Leicester, left estate valued at £6,493,963 net.

Reception

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a reception held yesterday at City Hall for London Borough Mayors and Members of the Executive Committee of the London Mayors' Association.

Legal appointments

Mr Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Clarke have been appointed Lord Justices of Appeal from October 1. They will replace Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Millett, who will be appointed Lords of Appeal in Ordinary from October 1.

West Glamorgan Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of the County of West Glamorgan: Mrs Ann Marilyn Harries, of Neath; Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Charles Bagley, of Swansea; Colonel Martin Geoffrey Coulson, of Swansea; Commander Brian John Thorne, of Swansea.

Births

WHITROW - On September 4th 1998 to Carolyn (nee Mackenzie) and Tim, a son, Adam Timothy Mackenzie.

Deaths

ASHTON - Elizabeth, nee Hewitt, 89, died peacefully on September 9th 1998, after a long battle bravely fought. The dearly beloved wife of Philip. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Brixton, on September 13th 1998 at 10.30am. Interment at Holy Trinity Church, Brixton.

Births

ALLEN - On Tuesday September 1st to Jane and Neil, a daughter, Rebecca Rose, a sister to Mollie Rose and Samuel.

Deaths

HEWLEY - On 29th August, Owen FICKE, sister of the late Patricia, and Dorothy Bath.

Births

FERNER - On 8th September 1998, John Scott Farrier C.B.E. peacefully in the Old Rectory, Belton. Loving husband of the late Margaret (Peg), dear friend to many. The funeral service will take place at St Nicholas Church, Cranleigh on Tuesday 15th September at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Cranleigh Funerals 01483 275758.

Deaths

HEWLEY - On 29th August, Owen FICKE, sister of the late Patricia, and Dorothy Bath.

Personal Column: Births, Deaths, Anniversaries, Golden Anniversaries, etc.

Personal Column: Births, Deaths, Anniversaries, Golden Anniversaries, etc.

Personal Column: Births, Deaths, Anniversaries, Golden Anniversaries, etc.

Personal Column: Births, Deaths, Anniversaries, Golden Anniversaries, etc.

Personal Column: Births, Deaths, Anniversaries, Golden Anniversaries, etc.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. de la Touche and Miss M. Lawton
The engagement is announced between Adrian son of Mrs Pamela Hughes of Potters Bar, Hendon, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lawton of Teddington, Middlesex.

Marriages

Mr C.F. Lawton-Smith and Miss K.E.F. Heslop
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, London, of Mr Christopher Lawton-Smith to Miss K.E.F. Heslop, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Norman officiated.

School news

Caterham School
The Autumn Term began on September 9, and ends on Friday, December 11. Head Boy is William Pine, Head Girl is Kate Fisher. Captain of Lacrosse - Susie Towsey. Captain of Rugby is Hilda Laval. Open House will be held on Saturdays, October 17 and November 7. Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Thursday, November 19. OC Day will be on Sunday, November 8, when there will be a reunion lunch for all 1998 leavers.

Goldsmiths College

Honorary Fellowships will be conferred upon Professor Kenneth Gregory and Mr Antony Gormley at the graduation ceremony for students at Goldsmiths College, University of London, today.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Large advertisement for 'PERSONAL COLUMN' containing various notices, obituaries, and service announcements.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including 'VERONICA' and 'PERSONAL COLUMN' branding.



OBITUARIES

VERNON HALL

Vernon Hall, CVO, anaesthetist, King's College Hospital, London, 1931-69. died on August 19 aged 93. He was born on August 25, 1904.

Known universally from his student days as Sam, after the rather macabre music-hall song Sam Hall, Vernon Hall was a pioneer in the rapidly changing science of anaesthesia and a doyen of medical education throughout his career.

The 1950s ushered in the introduction of much safer gases such as trilene, while pentothal, administered intravenously, enabled patients to be anaesthetised rapidly before the gases were introduced into the process.

Born in New Cross, South London, of parents who were both teachers, Vernon Hall was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's School. Uncertain what choice of career to make, he was guided towards medicine by his headmaster, and went on to study at King's College London and then King's College Hospital Medical School, qualifying in 1927.

Hall soon began to take an interest in teaching and also in anaesthetics, and was appointed junior house anaesthetist to King's College Hospital in 1928. In 1931, at the age of 27, he was appointed consultant anaesthetist to the hospital. This was a post



Hall: a career which saw great advances in the safety of anaesthesia

with no salary and income had to be earned from private cases done at the invitation of the surgeon, and from locums outside the hospital. Later Hall obtained a consultant post at South-end Hospital with a salary of £150 per annum for two sessions a week. Most anaesthetists were given by general practitioners in those days and specialist anaesthetists were rather rare birds.

When the war began he worked initially at King's during the Blitz, and then joined the RAMC, in which his first posting was to Colombo. One of his first tasks was to go by Catalina flying boat to Addu Atoll, the southernmost island in the Maldives, to pick up a sick anaesthetist, a trip which entailed eighteen hours in the air as, en route, the flying boat also had the task of circling a merchant

ship to protect it from submarines.

He was then sent on an even longer journey to a small tented hospital in a jungle training area near Jhansi, in northern India. This was a hazardous posting, not because of any Japanese threat, but from the presence for training purposes a number of trigger-happy Americans, veterans of the Guadalcanal campaign. Not having an enemy to fight, these troops were in the habit of looting off at anything that moved, avian or terrestrial, and stray rounds were frequently whistling round the training area both by day and by night.

Shortly afterwards, Hall was appointed anaesthetic adviser to Eastern Command based in Calcutta. This post involved regular visits to the forward areas in northeast India and Burma, such as Shillong, Kohima, Imphal and Chingong, where the main Japanese thrusts had just been stemmed in the early part of 1944.

Later in 1944 he was promoted to brigadier and made anaesthetic adviser to South-East Asia Command, taking control of anaesthetic postings in India as well as throughout South-East Asia. Keeping in contact with all parts of this vast domain was extremely difficult, and involved long, tiring journeys.

After the war Hall returned to his consultant post at King's, and in 1948 obtained his fellowship of the newly established Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons and became a founder member of its board. He also took an increasing interest in medical student education, being Vice-Dean of King's College Hospital Medical School, 1949-51, and then Dean from 1951 to 1965. He was chairman of the Board of Advanced Medical Studies and a member of the Senate of London University from 1952 to 1962. He quickly became a witty and accomplished after-dinner speaker.

During his career he worked with many of the leading surgeons and ob-

stetricians of his day, and was present at the births of all four royal children, working initially with Sir William Gilliat and later with Sir John Peel. He also attended Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Kent and in 1960 was appointed CVO.

In 1969 he retired to north Devon where he was able to pursue his interests of walking, riding, reading and music. With the help of his wife he did much to inspire the building of the village hall at Brendon, near Lynton, and was an active member and later a vice-president of the Exmoor Society. Even after moving back to Kent, ten years ago, he continued into his nineties to travel to Devon to attend the AGM of the society.

His interest in the countryside and walking also took him many times to the famous mountaineers' inn at Pen-y-Cwyrd in North Wales. In 1982 he published *A Scrapbook of Snowdonia*, a history of the inn and the surrounding area. His other publications included *A History of King's College Hospital Dental School* (1973) and, jointly with others, *The Story of King's College Hospital and its Medical School* (1991).

More recently he wrote his largely autobiographical *Reminiscences*, published last year. In this book he reflected upon changes in anaesthesia and healthcare during his working life and upon the difficulties in integrating a medical vocation with market-place economics. This was a subject upon which he felt strongly and spoke with great clarity on his 90th birthday.

He was particularly opposed to the view that doctors could give of their best while working to a strict timetable, or that an operating theatre should close for some logistical reason before a list was finished.

Described by *Paris Match* on one occasion as "a typical Englishman of the strong silent type", he had beneath his quiet exterior a vein of great human kindness and generosity. He was a disciplined man who liked punctuality, especially in respect of his mealtimes, and continued to dress daily in a suit and tie until the day of his death.

His wife Marcia, a paediatrician whom he met in their student days at King's, survives him with their son and two daughters.

MARGARET POTTER

Margaret Potter, romantic novelist, died in Oxford on August 26 aged 72. She was born in Harrow on June 21, 1926.

FEW established novelists could match Margaret Potter's range of published work. Writing as Anne Melville, Margaret Newman and Anne Betteridge, as well as under her own name, she produced more than fifty novels in a variety of genres, and countless short stories for collections and magazines. She traced her remarkable storytelling ability to an early stay in hospital, aged five, when she was unable to sleep and devised picture stories in her head to stave off nightmares. "I still lie awake, creating characters and making up adventures for them to enjoy or to endure," she wrote in 1994.

Margaret Newman was the eldest daughter of Bernard Newman, a civil servant, lecturer and traveller, and himself the writer of more than a hundred books, including spy stories and travel guides. She won a scholarship to St Hugh's College, Oxford, where she first learnt the value of the meticulous research which would be a trademark of her historical novels.

On graduation she taught in Egypt and edited a magazine while waiting for her husband-to-be, Jeremy, to finish his own studies and find work. Members of the Hampstead Choral Society, of which she was then secretary, would have recognised characters in her first published novel, *Murder to Music* (1959). This was followed by a series of novels published by Harrod and Blackett, one of which brought her the Romantic Novelists' Award. She then found time for nine children's books while, from the mid-1970s, her considerable energy was devoted

to family sagas. The six volumes of the Lorimer saga (beginning with *The Lorimer Line*) first attracted a large readership to her work, her readers' loyalty thereafter evidenced by the considerable sums she received from having her books borrowed from public libraries under the relatively recent Public Lending Right.

In these sagas, as well as in her 1990s novels such as *A Clean Break* and *Standing Alone*, the interest in the lead female characters does not lie



in their love life or their marriage but in their independence and determination to make what they can of challenges and opportunities.

Margaret Potter herself was full of such spirit. When she was not writing, she gardened with enthusiasm, she sang until she felt her voice had faded, she played tennis weekly and she did voluntary work. Her husband Jeremy — magazine publisher, sportsman and author — died in November last year; they were married for 47 years. She leaves a daughter and a son.

Her last book, *Debutante Daughters* by Anne Melville, will be published next year by Orion.

VERONICA CRABBIE

Veronica Crabbie, CBE, voluntary worker and campaigner, died on August 17 aged 87. She was born on November 26, 1910.

VERONICA CRABBIE was Scottish chairman of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and a commandant in the British Red Cross, but she will be best remembered as a pioneering campaigner for better support for single mothers.

The youngest daughter of the judge, church reformer and author Lord Sands, Margaret Veronica Johnston attended St Denis School in Edinburgh and then boarded at Queen Margaret's School, Yorkshire, where she was head girl.

She then took the "Housewife's Course" at Athol Crescent, Edinburgh, and went on to chauffeur her father and provide secretarial support. An ardent love of camping, fostered by her years in the Girl Guides, led her to become a trainer and assistant to blind Guides. She retired from guiding on her marriage to the Edinburgh stockbroker, Pat Crabbie, in 1938.

She worked as a Red Cross VAD (naval), and later re-

called the strict discipline at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham.

On moving on to the RN Hospital, Haslar, near Portsmouth, she found the hands-on approach more rewarding. She retired from the Red Cross in 1942 on the birth of her second child, by which time she was a commandant.

Veronica Crabbie joined the committee of the Edinburgh Home for Mothers and Infants at Claremont Park in 1947, a natural progression from her voluntary work at the Children's Shelter in the city's Meadows, which she had begun when aged 20.

She was also a member of the Edinburgh Children's Welfare Group. She was appointed chairman of the Claremont Park committee in 1952, and remained in the post for 14 years until she took the chair of the Scottish Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, now the Scottish Council for Single Parents.

In 1955 she had been a founder member of the Edinburgh Children's Home Organisation, which represented several voluntary homes in the city. On joining the Women's Royal Voluntary Service in 1960 she

was appointed children's welfare officer for southeast Scotland, and later she took over the same post at Scottish headquarters.

She became Scottish vice-chairman in 1966, before being elected to the chair in 1972. She retired in 1977.

Following her 50 years and more of voluntary service, she embarked on an Open University degree, having always felt cheated out of the chance of higher education when she was younger.

She graduated in 1982 at the age of 72. Her tutor was the SNP leader and MEP for North-East Scotland, Allan Macartney, who was a distant relative and who died last month.

She and her husband were avid curlers, and she was past president of Edinburgh Ladies Curling Club.

She was appointed CBE in 1976, but felt some regret that the citation mentioned only her WRVS work: she felt that her work with the Scottish Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child had been more important.

Veronica Crabbie is survived by her husband and their daughter and two sons.

Charlie Feathers, rock'n'roll singer, died in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 29 aged 66. He was born on June 12, 1932.

CHARLIE FEATHERS was present at the birth of rock'n'roll. He co-wrote Elvis Presley's first hit, *I Forgot To Remember To Forget* and, although his own commercial success was limited, over the years he grew into something approaching a legend as new generations rediscovered the early rockabilly music of which he was a pioneer and lionised anyone who had shared a studio with the original rock'n'roll heroes. As a result, his influence was far greater than his own record sales would suggest, and his popularity seemed to undergo at least one revival per decade throughout a long and varied career.

Raised on a tenanted farm near Holly Springs, Mississippi, as a boy Feathers sang in church and listened to country music on the *Grand Ole Opry* radio show. He heard bluegrass performers such as Bill Monroe when they passed through nearby Hudsonville and was taught to play the gui-

tar by a black sharecropper named Junior Kimbrough. In 1948 he left home to work with his father on an oil pipeline in Texas, playing his guitar by night in local saloons in a basic country style.

He married at 18 and moved to Memphis in the early 1950s, working variously as a truck driver and factory hand. Yet he spent as much time as he could hanging out at Sam Phillips's Sun Studios, where he got to know such blues musicians as Howlin' Wolf as well as the teenage hopefuls Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.

The exact nature of Feathers's contribution to the emergence of the rockabilly sound which became Sun's trademark is disputed. Certainly, his background in country music and his acquaintances with black music meant he was perfectly positioned musically, but extravagant claims he made over the years to have arranged all of Elvis Presley's material, and to have given Lewis the idea for his pumping piano style, need to be taken with a pinch of salt. His early demo of *I Forgot To Remember To Forget* became a hit for Presley but Feathers's only record on Sun under his own name, a country number called *Defrost Your Heart*, was released in 1955 some months after Presley's debut.

Sun rejected Feathers's next song, *Tongue Tied III*, and he took it instead to the Meteor label, enjoying a local hit. It was to remain his best-known number. He next moved to King Records in Cincinnati, who attempted to sell him as their answer to Presley, but before long he was back working with Phillips cutting demos and doing studio work. He continued to make records for a number of small labels throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s with his country voice, novelty vocal effects and



Charlie Feathers (with guitar) and members of his 1950s group, the Musical Warriors

a rockabilly sound that veered towards light comedy, but without ever hitting the big time.

Yet, despite such an apparently limited set of achievements, the Feathers cult grew, partly because of the association with such giants as Presley, Perkins and Lewis. He recorded an album for the Barbeque label in 1963 that introduced him to a new set of fans who were still in nappies when Sun Studios had been making musical history.

In 1977 a single on the Rollin Rock label, *That Certain Smile*, backed with *She Set Me Free*, was seized upon by

British rockabilly revivalists such as Dave Edmunds, and Feathers briefly enjoyed perhaps the most popular spell of his career. Although he was never one who could be accused of false modesty, even Feathers must have been mildly surprised to find himself headlining a show at London's Rainbow Theatre and recording for EMI's progressive rock label, Harvest.

A compilation album, *Rockabilly Mainman*, in 1978 helped to perpetuate the legend. Ten years later a similar collection entitled *The Living Legend* signalled yet another revival of interest. The 1991 al-

bum *Charlie Feathers* included a reworking of his classic *I Forgot To Remember To Forget* and in 1995 the appearance of an album of previously unreleased 1950s demos, under the title *Tip Top Daddy*, created yet another mini-revival which led to a lavish and definitive double CD retrospective, *Get With It*, released only six weeks ago.

He continued working almost until the end, playing rock'n'roll classics in a band which included his son Bubba and daughter Wanda. He is survived by his wife Rosemary, and by two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

FLATMATES (Est. 1970) Best Deal! Specialist in shared flats. Call 0171 580 5407

RENTALS

CHESAIRE/FURNISH Specialist. Daily refresh of 2 d.beds, g.p.s. Call 0171 381 3484

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHT TRADERS Cheap Car Hire. Call 01476 592602

JETLINE

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

Jetworld CHEAPEST PRICES. Call 01476 592602

DELTA WORLDWIDE

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTSEEKERS

FLIGHTWISE

FARESAVERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

LEGAL PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES CLASSIFIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

LEGAL PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES CLASSIFIED

LAUNCH OF ROYAL OAK

The Royal Oak was yesterday launched in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators. Her propelling power will consist of a pair of 1,000-horse power (binnacle) engines, by Messrs. Maudslayi, Son, and Field. Already three tiers of armour plates have been bolted on to her port and starboard sides, but three additional rows will be given her, thus carrying the plates from her gunwale to a distance of 5ft below her load water line. Each plate is 4 inches in thickness, and weighs, on an average, 80cwt. These will cover the vessel to within about 4ft of her stern and stern, when they will commence tapering off to 3 inches in thickness at the stern and bows, excepting under the buttock, where the plates will only be 2 inches thick.

ON THIS DAY

September 11, 1862 The launch of Warrior, Britain's first iron-clad warship in 1860, began a programme of naval expansion. Royal Oak was one of six iron-clads constructed in the 1860s.

ON THIS DAY

September 11, 1862 The launch of Warrior, Britain's first iron-clad warship in 1860, began a programme of naval expansion. Royal Oak was one of six iron-clads constructed in the 1860s.

ON THIS DAY

September 11, 1862 The launch of Warrior, Britain's first iron-clad warship in 1860, began a programme of naval expansion. Royal Oak was one of six iron-clads constructed in the 1860s.



NEWS

The Net closes on Clinton after Starr delivers explosive verdict

The report that could end the Clinton presidency was set to be disclosed to the world on the Internet as pressure grew for Bill Clinton to resign or face impeachment. The sexually explicit report, by the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, is understood to allege that he is guilty of perjury, obstruction of justice, witness tampering and abuse of power.

Arsenal bid talks

The television company Carlton Communications was in takeover talks with Arsenal. The Premiership champions could be worth less than half the £623 million BSKyB agreed to pay for Manchester United.

MPs oppose TA cut

The Government's plan to cut the size of the Territorial Army by more than a third was condemned by MPs as shortsighted and misconceived.

Diagnosis revolution

A breath test that allows doctors to diagnose common illnesses without having to wait days for blood or urine sample results could be available within two years.

New test plan for BSE

Government advisers have recommended new tests for cows that appear healthy but may be carrying the agents that cause "mad cow" disease.

Yeltsin compromises

President Yeltsin moved to parliament and selected his former Foreign Minister to be Russia's next Prime Minister.

Pope blesses menu

The Vatican gave its blessing to a millennium menu for visitors to Rome in 2000 that will include medallions of beef à la cardinal, Sistine Chapel mushrooms and pilgrims' pudding.

Vote on test ban

Pakistan summoned an emergency joint session of parliament to approve a decision to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which may lead to the lifting of economic sanctions imposed after its nuclear tests.

Meat for needy axed

A scheme that gave the poor and homeless free supplies of meat from the European Union beef mountain has been axed by the Government.

Ulster army cuts

The Government is planning swift and extensive demilitarisation in Northern Ireland to encourage the IRA disarmament that must start soon if the peace process is to succeed.

Viagra bill 'only £50m'

Viagra is to be sold to the NHS at £4.84 a tablet when it is licensed next week, meaning a total annual bill of about £50 million, the manufacturer said.

Fatal navy drill

A sixth-former drowned unnoticed under a liferaft while pupils above him continued a sea-survival exercise supervised by Royal Navy specialists.

Weekend jails plan

Minor offenders could be allowed to keep their jobs and serve their sentences at weekends, under ideas from MPs to ease pressure on jails.

Flying dog brought down to earth

She jumped out of aircraft and went scuba diving, but had to end her hobbies when she fell out of bed. For Hooch is a seven-year-old dog and the vet barred any more escapades when she broke a leg jumping off the bed of her owner.



Keiko, star of the film Free Willy, being lowered into its native waters off Iceland yesterday after 19 years in captivity. The whale, transported by aircraft and boat from the United States, will live in a sea pen until it is judged ready for return to the wild.

BUSINESS

On the alert: The chairman of the Government's Action 2000 group has met Home Office officials to discuss what to do if private and public infrastructure goes into meltdown because of the millennium bug.

BTR: Shares in the engineering group slumped 18 per cent after half-year profits fell under pressure from the strong pound and weak overseas markets.

Economy: The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee defied calls from industry to cut base rates but provided the assurance long sought by exporters that it will not raise them.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 174.7 to close at 5136.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to 102.9. Page 30

SPORT

Football: Carlton Television, which is in takeover talks with Arsenal, has also had preliminary discussions with Tottenham Hotspur as the race for television riches becomes a headlong dash.

Cricket: Leicestershire strengthened their position on top of the Britannic Assurance Championship as they swept towards seemingly inevitable win over Essex.

Golf: Darren Clarke led the way with a five-under-par 67 in difficult conditions on the opening day of the One Two British Masters at the Forest of Arden.

Tennis: Venus Williams reversed an early tide of errors to overwhelm Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals of the US Open.

ARTS

Week in the Arts: "Cut out the fake outrage, guys: get down to hard talking and turn the new Covent Garden into an opera house that makes Britain proud," writes Richard Morrison.

Pop on Friday: Jack Dangers, the brains behind Meat Beat Manifesto, is the man everyone wants to sample.

New pop albums: Manic Street Preachers release their eagerly awaited fifth album, but the new sounds are conservative and formulaic, while Marilyn Manson's latest effort is destined to be forgotten.

Tragic tale: Diana Rigg tackles the title role in Racine's Phèdre in a new West End staging and gets it absolutely right.

FEATURES

Virgin blurb: "We decided to change the name of the mail order business; Slipped Disc was a favourite. Then one of the girls said, 'What about Virgin? We're complete virgins at business.'" The final extract from Richard Branson's autobiography.

Metre man: Seamus Heaney, the Irish poet who won the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature, is interviewed by Erica Wagner.

Mirror reflections: The wild days of the paper are over; it has now become a very serious tabloid, according to its chief executive, David Montgomery.

Pitched battle: "From the moment that Manchester United was floated on the Stock Exchange, the directors' responsibility was to represent the interests of shareholders rather than fans."

Private lessons: John O'Leary explains how the private sector has been edging closer to running state schools.

President Clinton is becoming an abandoned and isolated figure—a dangerous position for the leader of the free world to be in.

—Il Messaggero, Rome



TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

CRY WOLFE Tom Wolfe reveals his Bonfire of the Nineties

LONE MANIAC Natalie Merchant on life after 10,000 Maniacs



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,894

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29.

ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle, including '1 In a disgusting fashion, completely empty? (6)' and '27 Carry on with words that are straightforward and clever? (9)'.

Weather and forecast information including 'Lazest Road and Weather conditions', 'Weather by Fax', and 'World City Weather'.

FORECAST and AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY sections with weather icons and temperature data for various locations.

WIND TODAY and HIGH TIDES sections with wind direction maps and tide tables for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS and ABOARD sections with sunset/sunrise times and a table of ship arrivals and departures.

VERY LONG RANGE FORECAST and A RELIABLE FORECAST BEYOND 2001 sections with long-term weather predictions and a national network of trained installers.

OTIS NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1998. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 41% of the raw material for UK newspapers.

1998 constantly comfortable, 1999 constantly comfortable, 2000 constantly comfortable, 2001 constantly comfortable.

Proven reliability, backed by a 3 year warranty and a national network of trained installation and maintenance engineers.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY', 'Fears of meltdown prompt 2000 summit', and 'British Gas sights on 3.1 power customer'.



INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
How Russia's mafia affects its economy  
**PAGE 31**



**ARTS**  
Hardly Manic: the Welsh trio's flat new album  
**PAGES 35-38**



**SPORT**  
Clarke continues to leave rivals in shade  
**PAGES 46-52**

**SCHOOLS AND CATCHMENT 22**  
Education  
**Page 45**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1998

## Fears of meltdown prompt 2000 summit

By Chris Ayres

DON CRUICKSHANK, chairman of the Government's Action 2000 group, has met senior Home Office officials to discuss what to do if Britain's private and public infrastructure goes into meltdown because of the millennium bug.

The former head of Ofel, the telecoms watchdog, revealed that the Government had been preparing for a worst-case scenario after a meeting yesterday with business leaders, regulators and civil servants. It is thought that senior representatives from British Telecom, Cable & Wireless, Transo and Shell attended.

Commentary, page 29



Special agents: from left, Stuart Higgins, media consultant, Robert Gutowski, chief executive, and Jon Holmes, managing director, of Marquee UK

## Stephens sells star stable to Marquee for £2.1m

By Jason Nisse

TONY STEPHENS, the agent who represents three of the biggest names in British football — Alan Shearer, Michael Owen and David Beckham — yesterday sold his business to The Marquee Group, the US sports management company whose clients include Gary Lineker, Greg Rusedski and Will Carling.

The deal, worth \$3.5 million (£2.1 million), will create one of the most powerful sports management companies in Europe, bringing together Mr Stephens, Jon Holmes, who sold his Park Associates business to Marquee earlier this year, and Donald Dell, the former US Davis Cup captain, one of the founders of the professional tennis circuit.

Marquee has also signed up Stuart Higgins, who recently stepped down as editor of *The Sun*, as media consultant. Marquee is also in the midst of a \$100 million merger with SFX Entertainment, a company that owns a series of sports and entertainment events in the US as well as representing Michael Jordan, the basketball star who is the world's highest-paid sportsman.

The deal follows the acquisition earlier this year of APA, the sports management group founded by Alan Pascoe, the former Olympic sprinter, by Interpublic, the US marketing services giant. It makes Marquee one of the world's three largest sports management groups along with Mark McCormack's IMG and Octagon, the interpublic business.

Mr Holmes said that as the business of sport becomes more sophisticated and affluent, so agents had to become more professional and shed their image of being dodgy dealers driving sports cars and waving mobile phones. "We are almost acquiring an aura of respectability," he said.

## MPC sends signal on interest rate stability

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee yesterday defied growing pressure from industry to cut base rates but provided the assurance long sought by exporters that it will not raise them again.

The MPC, announcing that it had left base rates unchanged at 7.5 per cent, clearly felt sufficiently sensitive to growing fears that Britain will be dragged down by turbulence in the world economy to publish a statement. This is the first time it has elucidated on a no-change decision since it was set up 16 months ago.

It said: "Although the Committee judges that the current level of interest rates is necessary to meet the inflation target, it recognises that the deterioration in the international economy could increase the risk of inflation falling below the target. The Committee will continue to monitor these risks."

The markets interpreted this as a strong signal that rates have peaked. In the British Government bond market the yield on benchmark ten-year bonds fell to 5.22 per cent, the lowest level since the 1960s. The pound slid to its weakest level against the mark for more than ten months on the conviction that base rates

are heading lower. It was quoted as low as DM2.8380 from earlier highs above DM2.86. Far from drawing comfort from the hint of lower rates at some stage, the stock market was disappointed that there was no cut yesterday. The FTSE 100 index closed 174.7 points lower at 5,136.6, a slump of more than 3 per cent. The City was caught in a vicious cross wind from Wall Street where share prices plunged by 2 per cent in early trading on fears of an end to the Clinton presidency.

**BUSINESS TODAY**

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

|                |          |           |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100       | 5136.6   | (-174.7)  |
| Yield          | 3.21%    |           |
| FTSE All Share | 2255.67  | (-68.93)  |
| Nikkei         | 14856.03 | (-99.51)  |
| New York       |          |           |
| Dow Jones      | 7847.20  | (-217.82) |
| S&P Composite  | 882.99   | (-23.21)  |

**US RATE**

|               |         |           |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4%  | (5 1/4%)  |
| Long bond     | 10 1/4% | (10 1/4%) |
| Yield         | 5.22%   | (5.27%)   |

**LONDON MONEY**

|                             |        |          |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| 3-mth interbank             | 7 1/4% | (7 1/4%) |
| Life long gilt future (Dec) | 113.89 | (112.79) |

**STERLING**

|          |        |          |
|----------|--------|----------|
| New York | 1.6823 | (1.6890) |
| London   |        |          |
| S        | 1.6812 | (1.6834) |
| DM       | 2.8444 | (2.8650) |
| FF       | 1.5409 | (1.5296) |
| SFR      | 2.3367 | (2.3541) |
| Yen      | 225.89 | (228.03) |
| E index  | 102.9  | (103.3)  |

**US DOLLAR**

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| London  |        |          |
| DM      | 1.6823 | (1.7195) |
| FF      | 5.6890 | (5.7650) |
| SFR     | 1.5409 | (1.5110) |
| Yen     | 134.25 | (136.70) |
| S index | 109.5  | (111.2)  |

Tokyo close Yen 135.69

**NORTH SEA OIL**

|                    |         |           |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Nov) | \$13.65 | (\$13.10) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

**GOLD**

|              |          |            |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$290.75 | (\$284.75) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

\* denotes midday trading prices

## British Gas sets sights on 3.5m power customers

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH GAS is aiming to sell electricity to more than 3.5 million customers after claiming that nearly two million people have already registered an interest in buying its power.

Next week it will launch an advertising blitz and is set to announce selling partnerships with several businesses. Roy Gardner, chief executive, said 440,000 people had signed up to buy electricity from British Gas while a further 1.5 million said they wanted information.

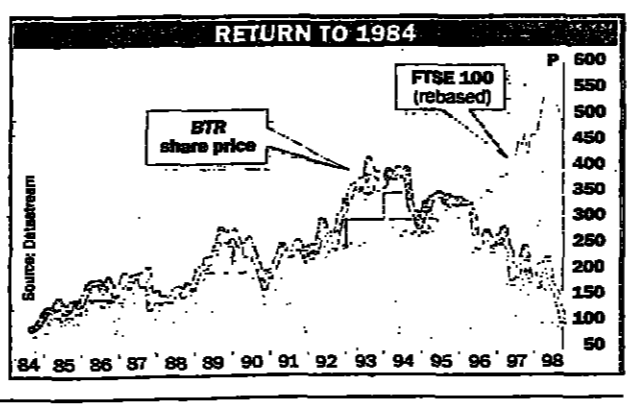
## BTR warns of further factory closures

By Adam Jones

BTR shares slumped 18 per cent yesterday after half-year profits fell under pressure from the strong pound and weak markets in South America and South-East Asia.

The poor performance, which continues a prolonged decline in the former conglomerate's share price, prompted BTR to say it may close more factories. It is also speeding up plans to move more jobs away from "high-cost" countries.

In the past 18 months, 11 factories have been closed in the automotive division, with production capacity moved from the US and Germany to Eastern Europe or Asia. Ian Strachan, chief executive, also said the return of £500 million to shareholders will be brought forward from April 1999 to take advantage of the company's historically low share price, with immediate effect. This was not enough to stop analysts downgrading profits forecasts for the year.



## TUC to debate criticism of PFI

By Christine Buckley

UNION leaders are squaring up to attack on the Government about the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) after John Monks, the TUC general secretary, failed to exclude a critical motion from next week's TUC conference.

## Wassall launches £351m TLG bid

By Paul Durman

WASSALL seized a 25.6 per cent stake in TLG yesterday as it unleashed a £351 million bid for the lighting company that last week recommended a £321 million offer from Cooper Industries of the US.

Henderson Crosthwaite said: "If Cooper comes back and pays 190p then Wassall will have got 30p more than it otherwise would have. I think it has got an edge."

However, Chris Miller, Wassall's chief executive, insisted that it was a serious offer: "We want to own TLG at 175p." He said the reason Wassall had not talked to TLG during the past two months — when the lighting group was known to be discussing a takeover — was that it wanted to keep its options

open, without being bound by any letters of confidentiality. Although Wassall has cash of more than £300 million, it intends to finance the TLG purchase with borrowings of up to £150 million. It will consider bringing in other equity investors to take a stake in the acquired business. Mr Miller said Wassall believed TLG could improve its performance: it had good market shares, well-known brand names and could support "a certain amount of debt".

**Diners Club International**

## Take a Seat

Call today for your FREE Diners Club Lounge trial pass

Looking for somewhere to relax before take off? Diners Club has over 80 exclusive lounges worldwide for Cardholders to enjoy before boarding their flights. For a limited period we'd like to give you the chance to enjoy this privilege. Send for your FREE pass and you'll be entitled to relax in any one of 9 Diners Club lounges at major UK airports.

Lounge access is just one of the many benefits enjoyed by Diners Club Cardholders every time they travel. To receive your FREE pass and for more information, call this number or return the coupon today.

**0800 88 77 74**  
and quote ref: 6569

The pass is valid until October 31st 1998. Diners Club reserves the right to withdraw this offer without notice.

Please complete and return this coupon to Diners Club International, FREEPOST LON 13211, London EC1B 1EL.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Registered mark of Diners Club International, New York, 6569



### Booker spells out options

By FRASER NELSON

BOOKER, the struggling food producer in merger talks with Budgens, briefed the City on how it would cope with the future if it remained independent.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman, said that he has a short-list of candidates who could become chief executive immediately should the Budgens talks fall through.

He said: "If the Budgens deal does not go ahead, we will move very fast." He added that talks to sell its fish processing and Daehnfeld divisions are in "advanced stages" although the sale of its Scottish salmon farms is not imminent.

Some analysts thought Mr Taylor was preparing the ground for a break-down in the Budgens talks, which are expected to conclude next week. Booker shares dropped 11½p to a low of 140p and Budgens held at 70p.

One said: "There are few synergies in the Budgens deal - if they want a new chief executive they should pay John von Spreckelsen [the Budgens chief executive] £10 million and save themselves £100 million."

Michael Landy, analyst at Henderson Crowthaitte, said that Booker's balance sheet - which detailed cash of £106 million and borrowings of £98 million - was not as bad as many had feared.

The company's underlying profit halved to £11.1 million (£22 million) for the 24 weeks to June 13 after an expected sharp profit downturn at its core food wholesaling division. Its Cash & Carry shops saw underlying sales increase by 7 per cent, although a reduction in selling space left overall turnover down by 4.9 per cent.

Headline earnings were halved to 3.3p (6.7p) and the interim dividend drops to 4.2p (8.3p).



Riding high: Hanson's Andrew Dougal, right, and Jonathan Nichols, finance director, are on the acquisition trail after impressive half-year profits

## Cornerstone gives Hanson foundations for expansion

By ADAM JONES

HANSON, the construction materials group, issued an upbeat trading statement after Cornerstone, its US aggregates business, helped to swell half-year profits.

Andrew Dougal, chief executive, said Hanson can afford to spend between £700 million and £800 million on acquisitions without approaching shareholders for more funds. However he said this money would not be used for the kind of massive deal favoured by

Hanson when it was a conglomerate.

Several potential bolt-on acquisitions worth up to \$100 million (£60 million) apiece, mainly in US aggregates and concrete, are being considered by Hanson management.

Interim profits before tax rose from £47.8 million last year to £78.8 million. Although Hanson was aided by a reduction in exceptional disposal charges, trading profits at Cornerstone rose 61 per cent to £40.6 million. Mr Dougal said Cornerstone

will enjoy the benefits of the US Federal Government's latest road building plans over a period of six years. The transport infrastructure programme is 54 per cent larger than its predecessor.

Mr Dougal said that ARC, the UK concrete and aggregates group, will have a stronger second half. Trading profit was relatively flat in the first half, partly held back by wet UK weather. He also said that ARC should be able to increase prices next year. Hanson said the UK Govern-

ment's recent road review "has, on balance, improved the outlook for this part of the business, but the timing of the benefit is uncertain".

Mr Dougal said he thought the UK market for new housing and home repairs should remain stable, protecting its brick-making division, which saw trading profits fall from £20.7 million to £18.1 million in the first half. He said: "We don't see [the market] falling away but we don't see it rising." However, Hanson still faces a weak market in Belgium,

where clay block prices have been hit by widespread industry overcapacity.

During the six months, Hanson managed to rid itself of the liabilities arising from pollution in the US by signing a re-insurance deal. The cost of this will be taken in the second-half accounts.

Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 12½p to 15.3p. An interim dividend of 4p per share, the same as last year, has been declared. The shares rose from 333p to 342p yesterday.

## Mirror Group confident about cable TV profits

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

MIRROR Group forecast yesterday that it would start making a monthly operating profit on its National Live cable television service by the end of next year.

The publisher of the *Daily Mirror* also said it had signed programming deal with Heart of Midlothian, last year's Scottish Cup winners, with its City TV station in Edinburgh.

The group plans to change the formats of its City TV stations away from local news coverage to more "upbeat" programming that advertisers are prepared to pay for.

The change of direction came as Mirror Group announced an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £49 million for the six months to July 5 before exceptional items.

Turnover rose by 2 per cent on a like-for-like basis and was up 31 per cent to £355 million when acquisitions such as Midland Independent Newspapers are included. Earnings per share rose by 3 per cent to 7.6p from 7.4p.

The share price fell by 8½p to 153½p on fears of pressure on advertising yields and circula-

tions and partly because of caution from Victor Blank, the new chairman, about advertising levels.

However, Mr Blank said: "In the face of economic uncertainty our core activities are relatively less exposed to downside risk."

The company hoped to research new formats for a re-launch of *The Sporting Life* later in the autumn.

Analysts now forecast pre-tax profits of between £100 million and £102 million for the full year.

## Microsoft strikes back against 'gang of four'

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT has launched a counterattack in its US antitrust battle by claiming its rivals formed a "gang of four" to thwart its progress.

It alleges that IBM, Netscape, Sun Microsystems and Oracle conspired against it, using the same anti-competitive measures of which it is accused by the Justice Department. It has issued a subpoena on all communications between the four companies that mention Microsoft. They have been asked to surrender the documents by today.

A Microsoft spokesman said: "We intend to demonstrate that Microsoft competitors are doing everything the government accuses us of doing, and then some."

The company specifically mentioned plans by Netscape, a rival browser maker, to form an industry alliance with Apple and IBM to develop technology while excluding Microsoft from the group.

In the Justice Department suit, Microsoft is accused of threatening and bullying rivals to maintain its dominant

market positions. It says its practices are common in the fast-expanding industry.

In a separate move, Oracle alleged yesterday that it lost a contract with Digital for 500,000 network computers after Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, put pressure on Robert Palmer, the Digital chairman, to drop the contract or lose its Microsoft work.

The anti-trust trial is scheduled to start on September 23 but the Microsoft subpoena could delay the proceedings.

## CBI chief calls for debate on EMU

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE recent financial instability across the world has highlighted the need for serious debate on European Monetary Union, the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry said last night.

Adair Turner said that Britain needed considered debate looking at the detailed economic arguments for and against a single currency.

Joining EMU could help address the biggest cause for concern in the global economy - over-reaction in the financial markets to crises such as those in Russia, he told the annual dinner of CBI Scotland.

"The debate about the euro has to be based on serious

analysis of the economic case for and against, a recognition that if going in carries some real risks, staying out will have serious disadvantages," he said.

Benefits of a single currency included a single European-wide capital market, transparent prices and reduced investment risks which could spur more intense competition and improved productivity.

Arguments against the euro, he said, included economic risks such as regional unemployment brought about by a single interest rate and the difficulties of getting the UK's economic cycle in line with those of Europe.

## New spirit at Allied Domecq

ALLIED DOMEQC, the international drinks group, announced it was restructuring its spirits business in the USA.

It is to combine the sales, marketing and administrative functions of Hiram Walker and Domecq Importers into a new organisation to be called Allied Domecq Spirits, USA, based in Connecticut and led by Martin Jones, previously president of Domecq Importers.

George McCarthy, president of the Americas for Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine said: "This restructuring will allow a greater focus on our core brands, while also allowing us to better service our customers."

## Nat Express in Australian bid

By FRASER NELSON

NATIONAL Express, Britain's largest train and coach operator, is to bid for five privatised bus, tram and rail networks in Melbourne, Australia.

Roger Salmon, the former UK rail franchising director, has helped Melbourne's authorities break the transport network into two commuter train companies, two tram companies and a long-distance railway. Each new company will own its own vehicles and infrastructure, and be run on a UK-style franchise basis.

Phil White, chief executive of National Express, said: "Any bidder can only win one train and one tram company, so we will try for them all." If



On track: Phil White, left, and Colin Child, finance director

successful, the company would sub-contract any infrastructure work.

Mr White said the company is focusing its international expansion on Australia and the US - where it intends to buy

more airports after being named preferred bidder for Stewart airport 60 miles north of New York.

Shares of National Express defied the falling market to jump 58p to 939p as it returned

### BUSINESS ROUND UP

## Laird Group slips 41% over first half

SHARES in Laird Group lost nearly 8 per cent yesterday after the engineer said that profits fell 41 per cent in the first half of the year. Profits before tax fell to £20.5 million as Laird's sealing systems arm plunged into the red. The division, which made a loss of £3.1 million compared with profits of £9.4 million in the first half of 1997, was hit by higher-than-expected start-up costs at its American car body seal plant in North Carolina. Further costs were incurred on capacity increases in France and Spain, and Laird has also had problems keeping manufacturing costs down in Germany. Overall group sales actually rose 9 per cent to £548 million.

Earnings per share fell from 18.2p to 10.8p. A dividend of 5.4p per share has been declared, unchanged from last year. The shares, which had been trading as high as 479p earlier this year, closed at 196½p. One analyst said: "It is a case of jam tomorrow. They said nothing at all that was optimistic. It looks like 1999 can be written off as well and it will be 2000 before we get any results. Their scrapping levels are far too high. It is quite a complicated engineering process to get a seal that fits. At the moment their scrapping rate is about 50 per cent compared with the normal level of 15 per cent."

## Mitsubishi settles

THE American subsidiary of Mitsubishi, the Japanese car maker, has agreed to a \$3 million (£1.79 million) settlement of a disability discrimination case involving 87 applicants. The deal struck with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is the largest out-of-court monetary settlement of a disability case under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. The firm is to pay the applicants, who were denied employment because they were perceived to be disabled, awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$120,000.

## Hammerson suitors

HAMMERSON, the property company, confirmed that it has received approaches for its Canadian business although the shares fell 4p to 397½p. Ronald Spinney, the Hammerson chief executive, said: "During 1998, we have received approaches from several investors interested in acquiring Hammerson's Canadian business. We are currently carrying out a preliminary review of these approaches and examining the strategic options open to the group." The statement followed speculation in the Canadian press that a deal was likely.

## Peterhouse profitable

PRE-TAX profits at Peterhouse Group, the builder based in West Yorkshire and best known for its Totty construction operations, jumped from £400,000 to £1.4 million on turnover up fivefold to £33.1 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were up 51 per cent to 5.9p and the interim dividend is to be increased by 23 per cent to 2.1p. David Jackson, the chairman, said that current trading remains buoyant and that the order book is strong. The shares fell yesterday from 86½p to 82½p.

## James Beattie better

JAMES BEATTIE, the store group, raised pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £2.7 million on sales up by 2 per cent to £44.5 million in the six months to July 31. Earnings rose 22 per cent to 4.4p a share and a rise in the half-year dividend from 2½p to 3p a share is proposed. On current trading, the company says that in August sales rose 8 per cent on the same period last year. The shares rose 5½p to 153½p. Beattie said that gross margin has been maintained and, given trading conditions, costs have been even more tightly controlled.

## Doulton shares slide

SHARES in Royal Doulton fell 27½p to a new low of 106p yesterday after the chinaware, crystal and glass company reported a 37 per cent drop in underlying profits to £2.72 million before tax. Adjusted earnings fell 41 per cent to 3.2p a share. The interim dividend is held at 2.3p a share but the company gave warning that payment of future dividends will depend on the conclusion of a business review to be completed at the end of this year. It said that its stock reduction programme, begun last year, was "an essential part of improving efficiency".

## Wessex deal cleared


THE £1.4 billion takeover of Wessex Water by Enron, the American utility group, has been given the green light by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, after Enron gave assurances that Wessex would be kept ring-fenced from the rest of the group. The conditions are to ensure that Wessex can still be regulated clearly by the Director-General of Water Services. The takeover valued Wessex at 630p a share. It is Enron's first venture into the water business and Enron Water has been set up as a vehicle for its water ambitions.

## Premium bonds win

PREMIUM bonds remain the public's most popular investment, with the sales record being broken for the second time this year. National Savings has said. Sales reached £84 million in July, breaking the record set in April. Sales exceeded £3 billion in 1997-98. On average premium bonds yield an annual tax-free income of 5 per cent in prizes, outdoing most forms of saving, but the unique appeal is the £1 million prize draw. The bonds attract serious investors - 150,000 people hold £20,000, the maximum allowed.

## Yorkshire weakens

YORKSHIRE GROUP, the speciality chemical company, saw pre-tax profits drop from £5.5 million to £3.1 million in the half year to June 30. Sales fell from \$55.7 million to £32.8 million because of divestments, although sales in the continuing textile dye and chemical business declined by £4.8 million. Earnings per share fell to 5.1p (8.6p). The dividend is held at 3.05p. The shares dropped from 149p to 133½p. Yorkshire said: "The short-term outlook is far from encouraging... we are redoubling our efforts to... restore adequate levels of profitability."



### The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

#### Interim Dividend 1998

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Friday, 2nd October, 1998 for the preparation of warrants for an Interim dividend for the year 1998 of 5.3p per 25p Ordinary share payable on Monday, 2nd November, 1998. The Interim dividend will be paid as a foreign income dividend.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar - Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on Friday, 2nd October, 1998.

#### Share Warrants to Bearer

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 202 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank Registrars, Corporate Actions, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 3pm on Wednesday, 21st October, 1998, to receive payment on Monday, 2nd November, 1998) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

By Order of the Board  
Miss J.E. Munsiff  
Secretary

Shell Centre,  
London SE1 7NA  
10th September, 1998

### TOURIST RATES

|               | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$  | 2.82      | 2.74       |
| Austria S     | 13.85     | 13.85      |
| Belgium F     | 61.81     | 56.85      |
| Canada C      | 2.652     | 2.475      |
| Denmark K     | 0.881     | 0.820      |
| France F      | 11.42     | 10.83      |
| Germany M     | 5.32      | 5.03       |
| Hong Kong H   | 9.21      | 8.65       |
| Italy L       | 10.00     | 9.22       |
| Japan Y       | 3.007     | 2.755      |
| Netherlands G | 21.66     | 20.47      |
| New Zealand N | 13.84     | 12.54      |
| Spain P       | 166.36    | 156.89     |
| Switzerland S | 1.4885    | 1.4089     |
| USA \$        | 1.788     | 1.694      |

USA for street denomination purposes only as supplied by Reuters Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

City Diary, page 31

سكزا عن الأصل



# Sympathy without solace



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

The Monetary Policy Committee has done a Green-pan. Its statement yesterday for the first time acknowledged concern about the deteriorating world economy, just as the Fed Chairman did last week. Both statements were immediately pronounced on by the markets as evidence that interest rates are on their way down.

In both cases, however, the central banks did little more than express sympathy for the condemned man without any firm promise of loosening the monetary noose. There is little doubt that interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic have peaked, but much doubt about when the first cut will come.

Alan Greenspan was his usual balanced self last week, admitting that the international scene could do the American economy harm but still emphasising his concern about domestic inflationary pressures. The MPC said that a deterioration in the world outlook could increase the risk of inflation falling below target and that it would continue to monitor these risks. The wording suggests that, as of now, the implications of emerging markets is not enough to warrant a rate cut and that things will have to get worse before one will be contemplated.

It may be that the Fed and the MPC are forced by ever-nastier evidence of disinflation and falling growth around the world to cut rates sooner than either envis-

age at this juncture. There is a considerable body of opinion which believes that the world outlook is miserable enough to warrant immediate action and that central bankers are being woefully complacent. Time will tell.

Although British industry was furious that rates were not cut, it should at least be grateful that the MPC has proved sensitive enough to smell the stench outside its ivory tower and, not before time, signal that British rates have peaked.

Its decision to speak may simply mean that Eddie George is scared that angry out-of-work men will start marching from Jarrow to Dulwich. Judging by the fury that greeted yesterday's rate announcement, a soothing statement was the minimum required for a committee that is trying to nurture a reputation with the public. Cynics might also suggest that invoking the great unknowns of the world economy at this stage may give the MPC a get out if the economy goes belly-up. The world economy is always a usefully uncontrollable scapegoat.

A less sceptical interpretation is that the MPC, wilfully oblivious of world events for so long, is

finally genuinely worried. It is notable that the statement came when the pound was already falling. Given that the Bank has been so paranoid about a precipitous decline in the exchange rate, one must conclude that it is now actively seeking a sterling depreciation. Nevertheless, it is still a good bet that, while talking the pound lower, the committee will control the speed of its slide by keeping rates where they are.

## Retailers to get their fingers burnt

The country's latest glitzy shopping mall threw open its doors yesterday. All the familiar high street names have rushed to take space in the Trafford Centre, at rents that soar as far as £350 per square foot for the most sought after space.

It seems mean to spoil the party mood, but do they realise they are taking on these commit-

ments just as the retail scene turns really nasty?

The latest survey from the CBI contains a message of true gloom. August was a lousy month on the high street, the worst for three years. On balance, the respondents are hoping for a little uplift in September, but that is only because they reckon on that September last year was particularly depressed by shoppers' preoccupation with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Even in this hope they are betraying the notorious optimism of the breed.

The grim truth is more evident in Merrill Lynch's sliced forecast for Marks & Spencer, taking profits back below £1 billion. Planning for the long term sees the company caught with funding large capital expenditure just as shoppers decide to cut their spending. The racks of reduced-price clothes in M&S stores recently have indicated that M&S has not been immune from the

difficulties that hit the high street this summer.

But things will get worse. Faced with daily news of job losses while funding increased taxes and mortgages, consumers are inevitably becoming more cautious.

Sir Richard Greenbury can afford to take a long-term view, although it is commendably generous of him to do so, considering that he will not be running the company when the benefits of its current expansion programme show through. Not every retailer now rushing to take space in Manchester's new mega-mall is so well cushioned.

The traditional 25-year lease with five-yearly reviews enabling the rent to move only upwards, never down, have crucified many an ambitious retailer. There can be no doubt that this downturn will claim more victims.

Because shoppers favour the big out-of-town centres over traditional high streets, retailers feel they cannot afford not to be repre-

mented there and so the rent levels surge in places like Trafford Park and Lakeside. But if the CBI survey is anything to go by, there will be some tenants who soon regret their enthusiasm to commit to such high levels of outgoings. And the traditional retail lease allows for no change of mind.

## A government bug warning

Where will you be as 1999 turns into 2000? Ask even the sanest and soberest of individuals this question and the unanimous conclusion is that wherever else they may be, they most certainly will not be taking to the skies for a few days over the end of that year and beginning of the next.

The threat of the millennium bug is now, belatedly, being taken seriously by Government. Don Cruickshank was being coy yesterday about the content of his discussions with the Home Office but the likelihood is that he warned of the need to be prepared for mayhem. In the worst case scenario, utilities may fail to function and public unrest could take to the streets.

The Bank of England is now looking hard at the possible implications of the bug. While industrialists fully expect it to have an effect on their activities, the Government has apparently still to factor into its forecasts any element of a slowdown caused by the pesky creature.

The high street banks are agonising over how best to deal with the public relations side of the issue. They maintain that their systems will be alright on the night but how can they get that message across without alarming some customers to the prospect that there might even be a question mark over the matter? If even a small proportion of customers take the view that they will feel happier if their accounts were empty over the crucial weekend, they, and not the bug, would wreak havoc.

## Snack sized UB

UNITED BISCUITS has at last produced a set of figures that have out-performed the analysts' expectations. Eric Nicoli, the chief executive, may be saved from having to make the embarrassing call to the headhunters, which at one stage seemed an almost inevitable conclusion to his disappointing reign. But now the Penguin producer is on the up, its new ranges apparently hitting the spot with hungry customers. UB is reduced to a snack size version of its former self, but at least it is a healthy one.

# UB exceeds forecasts with £51.2m

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A TIGHTER focus on its branded biscuits division and increased spending on marketing helped United Biscuits, the UK food producer, to exceed half-year profit forecasts.

The group, which has been through a restructuring programme after reporting a marked slow-down in growth last year, announced pre-tax profits for six months to July 18 up 14 per cent at £51.2 million (£45.1 million last time), about 7 per cent higher than analysts' forecasts.

John Warren, finance director, said: "We are now back on an even keel. Apart from small bolt-on deals, we're happy to concentrate on organic sales growth which we hope to increase from 3 to around 5 per cent."

During the past six months the group has sold its snack foods operations in Australia and Europe and bought biscuit operations from Campbell Soup and PepsiCo.

Mr Warren said: "We are much more focused now and by investing in new plants,

new equipment and especially marketing to support our brands, feel we will be able to punch much harder than our competitors."

The group has increased its marketing budget from 11.6 per cent to 13.1 per cent of sales, or £108 million.

McVitie's Group performed in line with expectations, increasing sales by 6 per cent, accounting for about two thirds of overall group sales.

UK Foods had mixed fortunes over the half-year, with its successful savoury snacks operation offset by rising fish prices, which affected the seafood business.

Because of the economic turmoil in the Far East, the group has also decided to close its Indonesian operation.

Turnover on continuing operations climbed 5 per cent to £825.5 million.

The interim dividend has been increased to 3.6p (from 3.5p). Earnings per share are up 13 per cent at 7p (6.2p). United Biscuits shares rose 8p to 203p at yesterday's close.

## Goldsmiths first half deepens

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Goldsmiths fell to a three-year low yesterday as the jewellery company said its sales growth had slowed from 10 per cent to 7 per cent.

The company's traditional first-half loss deepened from £305,000 to £588,000 in the six months to August 1, which it blamed on the absence of wind-fall spending.

Its shares dropped 22.5p to 187.5p yesterday, mainly on fears that it is spending too much on store openings while the retail climate worsens.

It opened ten stores over the spring and summer, and intends to open another five in the coming months. Its debt has now almost doubled, to £20.1 million (£11.6 million).

The company said its sales growth picked up to 8.2 per cent over the past six weeks.

City analysts shaved £200,000 from forecasts and now expect a profit of £5.6 million for the full year.

The interim dividend rises 9 per cent to 3p a share.

## Gallaher in share buyback

By ROBERT COLE

GALLAHER, the cigarette company, is planning to buy back up to 5 per cent of the firm's shares. If it bought the full 5 per cent at yesterday's share price, the exercise would cost £130 million.

The announcement helped Gallaher to absorb a fall in pre-tax profits and news that Gallaher's UK share of the UK cigarette market dipped from 39.5 to 39.1 per cent.

Headline pre-tax profits fell from £167 million to £128 million. Underlying operating profit was down just £3 million at £170 million. Gallaher cited the rise in cheap, illegal imports of cigarettes, and increasing tax levies, as reasons for the slip.

The interim dividend is 6.8p sharply down from 9.625p. However, Gallaher emphasised that the lower payment was part of a readjustment of the way the dividend payment was divided.

Tempus, page 30

## Marston in talks with Nomura International

By OUR CITY STAFF

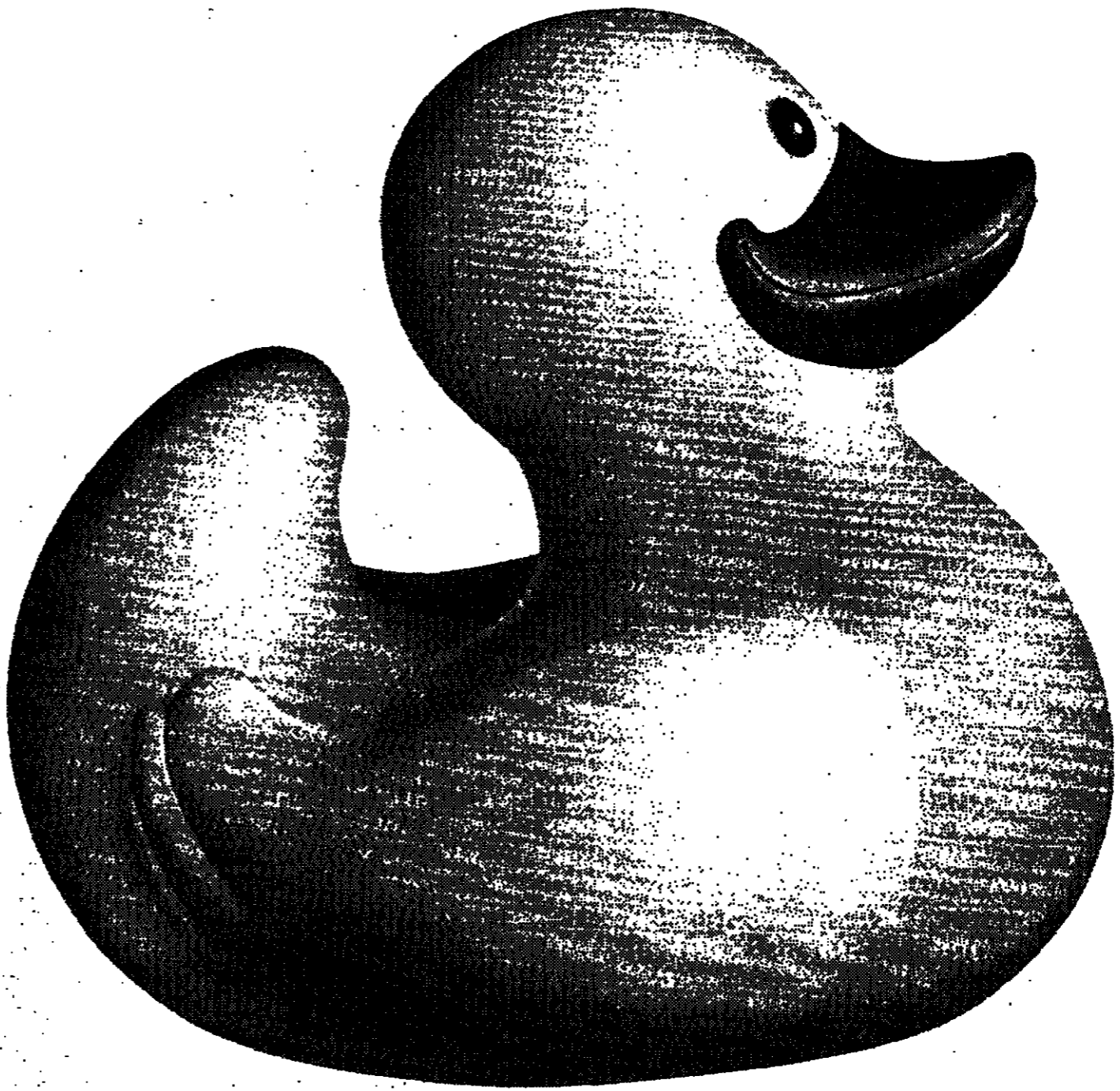
MARSTON, Thompson and Evershed, the brewer and pub owner, is in talks with Nomura International about the securitisation of its 600 tenanted pubs.

Analysts estimate Marston could raise as much as £100 million through the deal. Nomura has developed a niche in taking pub companies down the same route. The statement from Marston

group's share price. The shares leapt 42p to a high of 251p in speculative trade before closing at 224p.

Marston declined to say what it plans to do with cash raised by securitisation. There was speculation the deal could free the brewer to make acquisitions.

Nomura now owns around 10 per cent of Britain's pubs, after the £1.2 billion acquisition of the Innpreneur and Spring Inns chain of pubs in September 1997 to form the



When BT brought you 1471,  
we also brought you the uninterrupted bathtime.

1471 is a free service introduced to the UK by BT. Now you can talk at your own convenience, not someone else's. This is just one of the many reasons for being with BT. If you'd like to know more, Freefone 0800 800 800 or find us on www.bt.com

Working for you every minute of the day. BT







Mark Galeotti links the mafiya to the current economic crisis

The three faces of Russian crime

When the full history of the present Russian collapse is pieced together, the country's own mafiya will be seen to have had an important role...

Indeed, one of the most distinctive things about Russian organised crime is precisely how disorganised it is. It ranges from swaggering Chechen gangsters to seemingly legitimate Russian entrepreneurs...

They may fiddle their taxes (not a sin limited to Russians) or establish illegal cartels. But they have long since hived off their protection rackets and narcotics rings to hungry protégés...

Both tend to be flexible, able and entrepreneurial. The criminals simply see crime often as the quickest and fastest route to money, power and security...

The tales of three criminals — all true but anonymous for obvious reasons — illustrate the role the mafiya has played in the collapse and what it means for them.

Ivan is not quite one of the oligarchs, but a powerful mover and shaker in Moscow. In his rapid rise his first bank was largely built on the financial dealings of the Sointsevo gang, Russia's largest and



Organised criminals, disorganised crime: the mafiya is not a single unit but a collection of individuals, ranging from the mover and shaker, through the 'businessman', to the thug

most entrepreneurial criminal combine. Ivan was never a gangster, but when he was younger he worked with them, laundering their cash and using their drugs and protection profits as investment capital.

Sointsevo money still moves through his banks on the way to Cyprus, Israel and Austria (and, often, via London to

Spain or North America). However, mafiya money accounts for at most 25 per cent of the total capital flight from Russia. Figures are, again, often misleading, but capital flight probably has totalled \$25 (£15 billion) to \$35 billion since 1992.

Ivan relies on clever accountants and well-placed bribes to divert revenue agents. He also has local and national politicians in his circle. He does not 'own' them — everyone is a private entrepreneur in their own right in today's Russia —

but there are understandings. Ironically, this self-proclaimed 'ultra-capitalist' bankroll Communist and Liberal Democrat politicians in the Duma. They have useful local connections but Ivan also has benefits from the very lack of legal and economic stability in Russia and the freedom for manoeuvre it gives him.

and his business empire runs not on roubles but dollars (and he has high hopes for the euro). Even most criminals are no threat: his empire has 2,000 armed security officers in Moscow region alone, and one senior local police chief's daughter has a very well-paid sinecure in one of his firms.

label suit jackets and Levi's. He describes himself as an entrepreneur; within the mafiya he is an aviator, an 'authority'. He has a gang in St Petersburg, but they hide behind various facades. During the day, his leg-breakers wear the uniforms of his private security company and his drug peddlers operate kiosks selling sweets and alcohol.

the trend, pulling the money he salted abroad back into Russia. He is going on a buying spree, snapping up small and medium-sized businesses and real estate from bankrupted owners. He did quite well out of the initial privatisation campaigns that followed the collapse of the USSR, but he is now a much more experienced businessman. Then, he — like most criminal-businesspeople — relied on cherrypicking what looked like individual profitable assets; he is now looking to round out and rationalise his holdings.

Sasha fits the Central Casting model of the Russian mafioso, from his heavy gold jewellery to his entourage of thugs, molls and hangers-on. Back in Vladivostok, his gang ran a firm that bought copper to be smuggled over the border into China and sold for about 25 times its original value.

It is men such as Sasha who force Russian business to pay on average 10 per cent of their profits for protection or up to 30 to 40 per cent of profits on security.

Sasha's education was hard won in the prison system, and he knows always to have escape routes. He bought a house in Highbury on his shopping trip abroad, harbouring hopes of sending his sons to a British private school to become proper 'dzhentlemen'. He also has properties in Vienna and Marbella, and a Greek passport. He has not given up on Russia, and the lieutenant he has left in charge back in Vladivostok has been warned that Sasha still has eyes and friends everywhere.

The Ivans, Borises and Sashas have dominated the Russian economic and political system, from the banks to the gutters. The often-repeated figure that 40 per cent of the Russian economy is dominated by organised crime is essentially meaningless when Ivans can drain the state of revenue and stymie economic reform. Borises can distort the market and turn privatisation into kleptocracy and Sashas can force two thirds of businesses to pay protection. In their own ways, they have all contributed to Russia's crisis — and in their own ways they are all benefiting from it.

Dr Mark Galeotti is Director of the Organised Russian & Eurasian Crime Research Unit at Keele University.

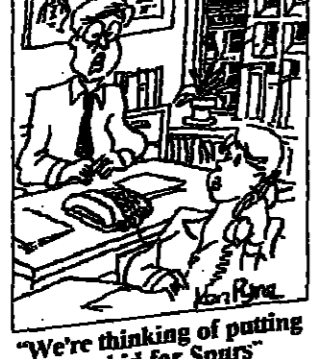
Reinsured

MILLIONS of pounds of City fees are up for grabs after the merger of Commercial Union and General Accident into the less euphoniously named CGU. The merger was completed in June and the company has started beauty contests to narrow down the two sets of advisers into one.

This does not always happen in such mergers — a large number of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan advisers seem to have stuck around with Diageo, for example, which seems to have a brace of most advisers. But the insurers are a more ruthless lot.

Morgan Stanley, Kleinwort, Hoare Govett, Cazenove and PricewaterhouseCoopers have an anxious wait on the CU side, while it is nail-biting time for Schroders, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, Caz again and KPMG for GA. Good thing. Keeps them on their toes.

SO BTR's share price is now back to where it was before the failed and horribly contentious bid for Pilkington in 1980, despite the best efforts of



the luckless Ian Strachan. By a pleasant symmetry, Pilkington shares are themselves a touch lower than when BTR launched the bid. From which one can only conclude that it would have made no difference who had won.

Single fare

A POP group called the Divine Comedy has recorded a song called National Express. So bowled over is the bus company that the track was played at yesterday's results briefing, copies of the CD went to everyone present, and they even printed out the lyric sheet.

But it gets worse. The tune is out as a single in the New Year and the board has contacted the group to offer help in making a video. With a cameo role for Phil White, the chief executive, they hope. A case of delayed adolescence?

Extra time

MICHAEL GREEN may not be an Arsenal fan, but I can reveal that his brother David, who runs the posh wallpaper makers Colefax & Fowler, is David once had a flight to Nice held up at the airport because he wanted to watch an old Arsenal game.

It was no ordinary Arsenal game, to be fair, but the 1989 match when his team won 2-0 at Anfield to secure the championship. Green's flight was delayed and he settled down in an armchair in the executive lounge at Heathrow to watch



it on TV. By the time the flight was called Arsenal were leading 1-0. Green refused to board until the final whistle, and because his luggage had already been loaded on to the aircraft they could not take off without him.

IN THE wake of the Manchester United takeover, the joke doing the rounds is that rival Manchester City, second division and languishing, is also going to be bought by a media concern — the Cartoon Channel.

Empowered

The Queen is buying her electricity from British Gas. Well, after all, her highness has to economise these days and British Gas does promise a 12 per cent discount on current bills. Or could it be that Simon Lewis, ex-media boss at the gas giant, is doing a bit of sales work in his two-year secondment as royal spin doctor.

Actually the supply of electricity to Windsor Castle is a historical legacy acquired when British Gas bought a business which had the contract to supply the Berkshire royal residence.

Given Windsor Castle's troubled past the Queen may want to take advantage of British Gas's insurance services.

AND now, some City archeology. Half a century ago there was a broker called Joseph Sebag, one of the City's biggest. The firm is, alas, no more, but Gerry Bealer, who worked there for 36 years, is retiring at the end of the month after 54 years in the City.

His son Nick, a trader at Quarts Capital and occasional visitor to this column, is arranging a party for Gerry, who is leaving broker JM Finn at the age of 69, and is trying to track down anyone who worked with his father at the firm or at its successor, Carr Sebag. There must still be a few out there. 'It's going to be a challenge for him to find things to do — the City has been his life,' Nick tells me.

Garbage in

IT IS a good thing that the next tranche of data protection legislation has been delayed from October until some time next spring. Much of it stems from the implementation of more European directives, and to no one's great surprise some silly anomalies are cropping up all over the place.

According to a seminar at City lawyers Simmons & Simmons this week, even electronic address books are likely to fall foul. Apparently, if you have your Pison about your person and head for New York you will be guilty of transmitting personal data out of the European Union into a country which does not have comparable legislation. This would be contrary to the new Act and, I suppose, therefore a criminal offence. Not a problem you have with scribbles on the back of a cigarette packet.

Moonlighter

LORD LEVENE of Portsoken, currently a senior adviser at Morgan Stanley, has landed

the chairman's job at Bankers Trust International, which now contains the equities arm of NatWest Markets, and he will have overall charge of European operations. But hang on, the same Peter Levene is standing for election as the next Lord Mayor of the City of London, a full-time job for a year, and has about as much chance of being defeated by the due electoral process as Saddam Hussein. One job too many, surely?

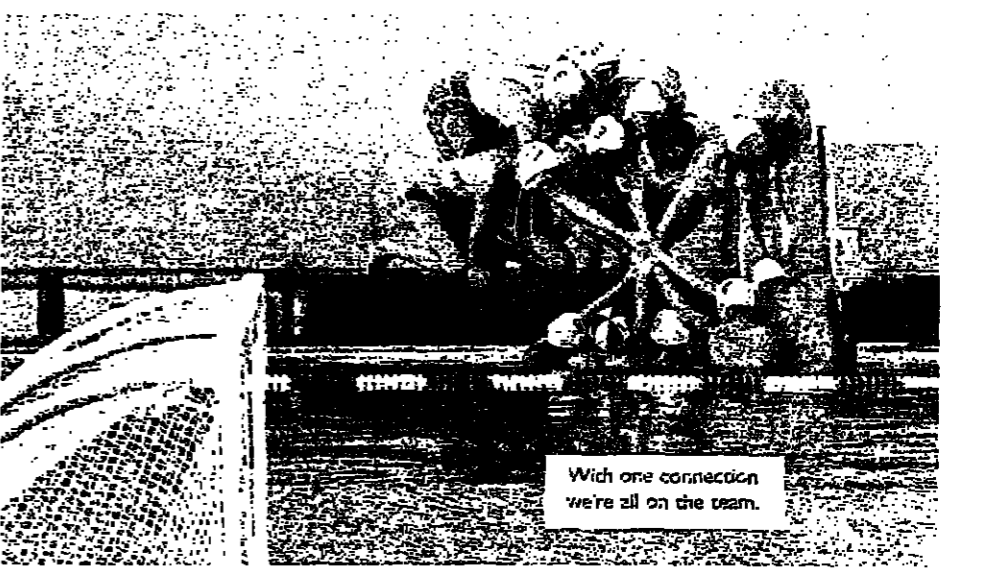
'I'm starting on Monday, which gives me a couple of months to get my feet under the table,' he tells me. 'It's true, the vast majority of my time has to be spent as Lord Mayor, but at the worst I'm only ten minutes away, and there's always the telephone.' His new employer has no problem with the arrangement, he says.

But it does mean that the man whose last-but-one job was championing the delights of Canary Wharf as its chairman and chief executive is going to a bank that is shortly expected to reject a move there in favour of staying in the City. Levene says he knows nothing about the rumoured move to the Spitalfields site but if that is the case, 'that's how the cookie crumbles.'

MARTIN WALLER



Lord Levene will split roles for his first year in office



Internet access is 10 times easier than you think. (Business made simpler.)

- Introducing the most cost-effective, off-the-shelf LAN and Internet solution for small businesses. An all in one solution from Cable & Wireless and 3Com. CWIC Ltd. offers:
- simultaneous Internet access via EDN for up to 4 and up to 10 users (CWIC Link 4 and CWIC Link 10)
- Internet connection at speeds of up to 128k
- round the clock technical support

For more information call today quoting ref. CWIC. FreeCall 0800 056 2826 www.business-made-simpler.co.uk



Cable & Wireless is a British company which is a worldwide provider of mobile, voice and data solutions. Our vision is to lead the world in integrated communications.







07/10/1998

Equities down across board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing stocks in the Alcoholic Beverages sector, including companies like Diageo, Heineken, and Carlsberg, with columns for price, change, and P/E ratio.

BANKS

Table listing stocks in the Banks sector, including companies like HSBC, Citigroup, and Royal Bank of Canada.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing stocks in the Breweries, Pubs & Restaurants sector, including companies like Asahi, Heineken, and Carlsberg.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing stocks in the Building Materials sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

CHEMICALS

Table listing stocks in the Chemicals sector, including companies like ICI, BASF, and Dow Chemical.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing stocks in the Construction sector, including companies like Bovis Lend Lease and Bovis Lend Lease.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing stocks in the Distributors sector, including companies like Asda and Asda.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing stocks in the Diversified Industrials sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing stocks in the Electricity sector, including companies like British Energy and British Energy.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing stocks in the Electronic & Electrical sector, including companies like Agilent and Agilent.

ENGINEERING

Table listing stocks in the Engineering sector, including companies like Agilent and Agilent.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing stocks in the Engineering Vehicles sector, including companies like Agilent and Agilent.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing stocks in the Food Manufacturers sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing stocks in the Healthcare sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Table listing stocks in the Household Goods & Textiles sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

INSURANCE

Table listing stocks in the Insurance sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing stocks in the Investment Trusts sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing stocks in the Leisure & Hotels sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA

Table listing stocks in the Media sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MINING

Table listing stocks in the Mining sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

MEDIA LINKED

Table listing stocks in the Media Linked sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

WITHDRAWN advertisement with a large 'X' over the text and contact information for advertising standards.

Table listing various financial instruments, including bonds and derivatives, with columns for price, change, and P/E ratio.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing stocks in the Printing & Paper sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

PROPERTY

Table listing stocks in the Property sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing stocks in the Telecommunications sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

TRANSPORT

Table listing stocks in the Transport sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

WATER

Table listing stocks in the Water sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing stocks in the Other Financial sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: FOOD

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: Food sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: General sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: General sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: General sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: General sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

RETAILERS: GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Retailers: General sector, including companies like Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

Small text at the bottom right corner of the page.



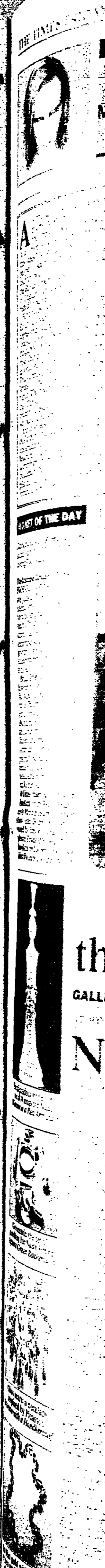
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST PRICES

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ADI MONEY UNIT TRUST LTD, CAROLINA LIFE UNIT TRUST LTD, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including BELLAMORE UNIT TRUST, BIRCHWOOD UNIT TRUST, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including BIRCHWOOD UNIT TRUST, BIRCHWOOD UNIT TRUST, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

STOP! Are you about to break the law by copying from this newspaper? Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, generally, it is unlawful to reproduce articles from newspapers without permission...







POP Shock rock returns with Marilyn Manson PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Diana Rigg's magnificent Greek passion PAGE 38

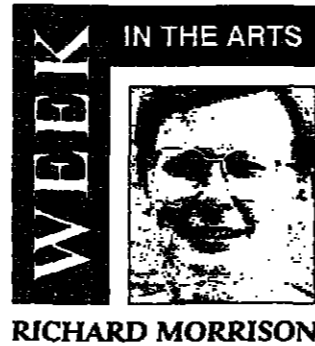


As the late John Lennon so memorably put it: "I read the news today, oh boy." And which stories caught my eye this week? More and more British people, it seems, are taking pills to counter bouts of depression. And the Royal Opera House is in turmoil again. Are these matters connected? You have to wonder. For anyone who loves opera, the Covent Garden affair has been a depressing saga. What did they once say about the British? Something about our genius for compromise? Our gift for finding pragmatic solutions to knotty dilemmas? That we make the world's best diplomats? Ah, nostalgic compliments! The recent history of Covent Garden suggests that at present we couldn't negotiate our way out of a paper bag. And this week's spectacle - Covent Garden's management and unions engaging in a series of public headbutts, like dinosaurs oblivious to imminent extinction - deepens the despair. Pass me those big pink pills, nurse. I feel a severe bout of operatis gloomis coming on.

Time's up in the last-chance Crush Bar

On Wednesday Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of the opera house, announced his "radical plan" to save Covent Garden. It's quite a piece of work. In a nutshell, everyone gets sacked; only those who promise to work harder for less money get rehired; next year's opera programme is written off as a dead loss; the new studio theatre is declared null and void even before it opens its doors; the performance schedule for the redeveloped opera house is cut by a third; and taxpayers end up forking out more subsidy for fewer performances. On the other hand, ticket prices will come down, and that's what everyone said they wanted. You can understand the anger of Covent Garden's workforce. For a man who says that he has inherited "an outdated culture of confrontational industrial relations", Southgate seems to have concocted a pretty good imitation of an old-

fashioned lockout to solve his problems. If he doesn't think his own plan is "confrontational" he should spend the weekend wandering around incognito, like Henry V before Agincourt, among his horny-handed stagehands. But what the stage crews think is neither here nor there. Southgate says that without drastic action the opera house simply won't reopen. He is trying to "do a Wapping", make a clean break from past managerial weakness and incompetence, and start afresh in a new building with new equipment and a newly motivated workforce. And, as with Wapping, the Government seems openly delighted to see union power smashed. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, tells Southgate in an open letter this week that "your plans for reforming the ROH are wholly consistent with (government) aims", and that Covent Garden can therefore expect "substantial additional funding". The only slight surprise is that this is a Labour Government. Funny old world, innit? That's one irony of the Covent Garden upheaval. Another is that, having squealed indignantly at Smith's infamous suggestion last year - that English National Op-



RICHARD MORRISON

era share the reopened Covent Garden with the Royal Opera and Ballet - on the ground that this would greatly reduce the total number of performances in London, the opera house has now been forced to cut the shows anyway. The truth is that, whichever way you slice the subsidy, there isn't enough to support two large-scale opera companies in London. Never has been, never will be. Now Ms Fixit has gone and Sir Colin Fixit has arrived but the fine mess remains obstinately unfixed. The difference this time, however, is that the opera house managers and its 500 workers (500! And it used to be 900) really are drinking in the last-chance Crush Bar. Yes, it is inconceivable that the redeveloped Covent Garden won't open in December 1999. The public, which overwhelmingly resented donating £78 million of lottery money to the redevelopment in the first place, would be scandalised if the new Covent Garden stood empty and purposeless. But if the Royal Opera's management and unions can't sit down like the reasonable, cultured people they are alleged to be, and thrash out an agreement that opens up the new Covent Garden to new audiences and frequent television transmissions, there is a very fine opera company just down

the road that would surely be delighted to swap its crumbling, near unworkable old theatre for pristine state-of-the-art premises. Its name is English National Opera. With its inspiring young music director, Paul Daniel, its brilliant outreach programme, its affordable ticket prices, its imaginative production style and its loyal audience that cuts right across the class and age barriers which bedevil the Royal Opera, ENO would turn the new Covent Garden into a marvelously vibrant place. Two kidding, aren't they? Not entirely. The fact is that London has already learnt to live quite cheerfully without a resident Royal Opera, and next year the company won't exist in any shape at all. Indispensable it ain't. Nobody at Covent Garden should forget that, especially during these next crucial weeks. Cut out the fake outrage and macho posturing, guys; get down to hard talking; and turn the new Covent Garden into an opera house that makes Britain proud to own it. Use it or lose it. The years of living outrageously are over.

MONET OF THE DAY

Each day this week Richard Cork selects paintings from the forthcoming Royal Academy show

The Japanese Bridge, c.1919-24 PROBABLY completed within two years of Monet's death, this seismic work shows how unfeared the octogenarian artist had become. The entire surface of the canvas is alive with restless, flickering marks. Assailed by cataract problems Monet nevertheless persisted in returning time and again to his beloved lily pond. Bridge, flowers and foliage are, however, hard to identify within the welter of organic brushstrokes. The forms have dissolved into a web of colour, conveying above all the obsessive intensity of the old man's response to nature. The emotional impact of this visionary canvas is complex, encompassing Monet's rage at the imminence of death as well as his perpetual ecstasy in front of the nirvana he cherished. Times readers have priority booking for the Royal Academy's Monet in the 26th Century show (Jan 23-April 19), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall (0870 842 2200, booking fee £1.80 per ticket on first five tickets; £1.40 thereafter)



Elegy for a daughter

JUST as the Austrian composer Franz Schmidt was getting into his stride, the time was turning seriously out of joint. The 1938 premiere of his last great work, the oratorio The Book of the Seven Seals, was turned into a National Socialist event, and his reputation took decades to recover. Indeed, it wasn't until Wednesday that his Fourth and last symphony, written in 1932-33, made its Proms debut. This was music which was certainly far too conservative to be snared as Entartete, or degenerate. So Schmidt missed out on that unique selling point, too. But the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and its conductor Yakov Kreizberg made a convincing case for the rehabilitation of this elegiac, single-span work in which a direct personal voice speaks through the ardently assimilated language of Brahms and Bruckner. Not without cause has this work been considered the final masterpiece of the Austro-German symphonic tradition. It wears that mantle lightly.

PROMS Bournemouth SO/ Kreizberg Albert Hall/Radio 3

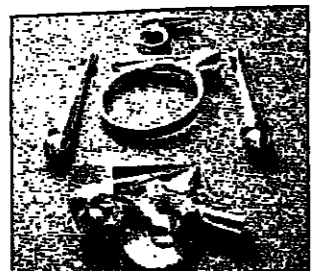
from the musical ferment of its time, Schmidt's music makes for thought-provoking listening, especially in a performance as committed as this. The Schmidt symphony brought a degree of balance to the evening. The first half had been dominated by the Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos, whose presence had doubtless filled the Albert Hall. After his debut disc, his Wigmore recital and his Rachmaninov Two at last year's Proms, expectations were high. But his Rachmaninov Third Piano Concerto was a disappointment. There were beguiling moments: the suspended whispering of the opening, the hard, bright light of the left hand as it led the orchestra in; the Intermezzo's clear song. Volodos's technical security and exuberant colour sense carry him through a good many notes. But that's not enough. Volodos seemed to be on a helter-skelter of monomaniacal virtuosity, and woe betide any instrument which got in his way. HILARY FINCH

The sparklers that Pablo left out

GALLERIES: A jewellery exhibition draws its inspiration from Picasso's portraits of women. Simon Tait reports



Semi-precious stones: the set of 19 rings for Nude Woman in a Red Armchair



Geometric: the set of jewellery for Nude Sitting Against Green Background



Glass tears: a necklace inspired by Picasso's Woman with a Handkerchief



An 18ct gold with precious stones necklace created for the Girl in a Chemise

Nobody painted women like Picasso did. But then, no painter had worn en to paint like Picasso had - all beautiful but each strikingly different in looks and personality. One thing these mistresses, wives and friends have in common, though, is that apart from occasional hats their beauty is undimmed. Any clothes were simple: there might be a hair ribbon or a humble string of beads, but seldom anything that could be described as decoration. Wendy Ramshaw, the leading British artist-jeweller, used this as inspiration for Picasso's Ladies: 66 pieces which are now being shown at the Victoria and Albert Museum. It is the largest ever display of a living jewellery designer's work at the museum. "I'd always loved the Picasso women," Ramshaw says. This project began at the Museum of Modern Art during a trip to New York. "I bought a bundle of postcards of the portraits, and I thought I could design from them. It wasn't that I thought the pictures weren't finished, or that I wanted to embellish them: it was an inspiration to make something of my own." It turned into a ten-year odyssey during which she has changed her scale of work, her style, and also survived cancer - an experience which has influenced this collection. Picasso's most famous models from the late 1920s to the early 1950s, and some from earlier, are represented here: Marie-Thérèse, Walter, Dora Maar, Nusch Eluard, Françoise Gilot, Jacqueline Roque. There is even Gertrude Stein from the earlier portrait in which she wears a tiny red brooch. It inspired Ramshaw to make five silver bracelets with curves punctuated by tiny golden balls. There is Sylvette, the pony-tailed girl in the 1954 Portrait of a Young Woman, whose

profile created a look for the 1950s later made flesh by Brigitte Bardot and Françoise Hardy. "At first I thought earrings would be the answer to this particular portrait, with its elongated neck, and I made a series of drawings," Ramshaw says. "But the wonderful heavy head of hair made me decide on a series of combs in silver, purple, red and blue stones such as amethyst, lapis lazuli and garnet to pick up and complement the colours of the portrait." And there is even a piece "I bought postcards and I thought I could design from them"

drawn from the controversial and fascinating early series Les Femmes d'Alger. In a study for the 1907 paintings Ramshaw found reference to Picasso's interest in African art. She made a black necklace of Perspex beads with silver gilt inlays. "This is the primitive versus the modern for me," Ramshaw says. The most striking exhibit is the brooches of coloured tears for one of the most familiar Picasso images of Dora Maar, the Weeping Woman. "In terms of a painting with such radiance and colour, it is hard to think of jewellery as anything but joyous," she says. She had a series of brilliantly coloured stones cut and then turned them into a group of drop-shaped stones which developed into two large, cascading brooches. The piece represents a new phase for Ramshaw. Since the start of the project her work has developed into the larger

scale. She has designed gates for St John's College, Oxford, a huge screen for the V&A, and murals and sculptures for two passenger liners. The contrast of size continues to interest her. "On the large scale," she says, "the work is something that involves a large number of people at different levels at the same time, so it's the very opposite of jewellery, which is a one-to-one relationship. You don't lose the body relationship, but it's reversed because the body relates to the large object which creates its own context, while the small object relates to the body." Three years ago Ramshaw contracted breast cancer, which has responded to treatment so far, but casts a perpetual shadow. She says the experience gives one a reason to be brave in other areas of life. It is an experience which helped her to make the Weeping Woman brooches. "The composition is disorganised, but I've got balance by contrasting the stones against each other. There is a moment of movement frozen in the painting, an instant of anguish which I wouldn't have had the courage to work with when the project started. It's a waterfall of tears." Even in the large scale, the signature geometric order and linear patterns which draw the eye in her jewellery are unmistakably present, but in the later Picasso jewellery there is an unfamiliar abandon, a new freedom of movement. "The early works in the collection are very recognisably mine, but as you get on you lose touch with the familiar, and that is because I have used a lot of the old language up," she says. "As an artist you have to expand the language you've got because you can't make a new one, and that's what you can see here."

Advertisement for the film 'Cousin Bette'. Text includes: 'Who knew deception, treachery and revenge could be this much fun...', 'A Feast for the Eyes', 'A Sumptuous Dish of Exquisite Malice... Lange is Outstanding... Delicious.', 'Savage Fun, Wickedly Comic', 'STARTS TODAY AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY'. Cast: JESSICA LANGE, ELISABETH SHUE, BOB O'DONNAN.



POP OPINION  
It's cool to be coy

ARTS

POP FEATURE  
Gram Parsons recalled

# Between rock and a dark Hole

Courtney Love could learn a thing or two about infamy from Belle & Sebastian, Caitlin Moran suggests

Gen Records spent more than \$1 million on the Hole comeback album — a big, brash, wonderful Hollywood thing, designed to be sold only in its millions. Unfortunately, the first single from it went in at a very poor No 19 on Sunday.

On Monday, Belle & Sebastian — an underground Glaswegian eight-piece so fey that they have recorder solos — played one of the most astonishing gigs I've ever seen, and nearly provoked a riot.

Both bands have that real, magical liquid genius about them, which is unstoppable and undeniable, and freezes the breath in your body. However, it's quite likely you don't know about this, as they simply don't deal with the press. In Belle & Sebastian's case, this means no photo shoots, no interviews: the guy from *The New York Times* was stood up in a Glasgow pub in 1996. One magazine was promised an exclusive first ever photo shoot with them last year — and ended up with a picture of one of the band's mates doing the ironing.

Belle & Sebastian simply don't care about being famous: they sell enough records and T-shirts to pay the rent and everything else is just yellowing scrapbooks full of misquotes in the end.

Hole, on the other hand,



Here are Belle & Sebastian. This is strange, because there are three people in the picture — and as many as eight in the group Belle & Sebastian

have waved around so many contracts and conditions that the campaign for their current comeback album consists of a buried feature in a broadsheet and a brief interview with *The Big Issue*.

Interviewers have to agree not to ask questions about Kurt Cobain, Nick Broomfield's *Kurt and Courtney* documentary, Love's father and "any half-truths/rumours" regarding the band. Hole also placed restrictions on their TV and radio interviews, causing a very bad-humoured three minutes on *The O-Zone*, and a last-minute cancellation of their *ITV Friday* appearance.

Most of the British media are roundly hacked off with the band, and in the absence of an interview have filled space with exasperated comments on Love's Hollywood spin-doctoring. What should have been a glittering comeback has turned into a rather sour debate on freedom of speech. This is probably why the Hole single stalled and the album is predicted to go in at a very icky No 10 on Sunday. If you're selective about your publicity, you only get a selective audience; and no one ever bought a big pink Jaguar on selective audience sales.

Belle & Sebastian's blanket refusal is the far more successful tack. By deciding they didn't want to be questioned from the outset (and it's impor-

tant to remember that musicians don't have to be questioned — they're not politicians or monopolists), they've built up a relationship with their audience that's pretty

unique in the 1990s. At their sweltering Shepherd's Bush Empire gig on Monday, they took to the stage an hour late and walked into a wall of piqued devotees booing.

As the gig progressed, and they unfolded each of their Fabergé clockwork miracles, the audience divided into those who forgave the band for their lateness and those who continued to heckle. These factions then started on each other. The theatre turned into a yelping 3-D debating-chamber — kids on the floor heckled those hanging

music become interactive and passionate again, even for one evening, is rather like finding gold on Mars.

As Belle & Sebastian ended their gig with five seconds of stunned silence, followed by a roar that had the people in the balconies vibrating, the woman next to me bemoaned the band's reluctance to do interviews. "Do you think it's that they're shy?" she wondered. I doubt it: a band that can play recorder solos through a near-riot have trousers bulging with contents the Prodigy can only dream of. I rather think it's that they know this: the main thing about press is being seen to be successful, and when you know you are, it becomes kind of unnecessary.

The real tragedy of the botched Hole album launch is that Courtney Love, for all her Amazon Hollywood diva-ing, still sees herself as musically unsuccessful. She wants to be vindicated, and by the same UK press she used to devour as a teenager.

So withdrawing from the media entirely, à la Belle & Sebastian, isn't an option for her — but then neither is answering a dozen unwelcome questions. And as Love, famously, wants to "be the girl with the most cake", the only option she has left is trying to have her cake, and contractually ensuring that she can also eat it at a later date.

Both Hole's *Celebrity Skin* (Capitol) and Belle & Sebastian's *The Boy With The Arab Strap* (New Star Records) albums are out now

## The cosmic cowboy

Too subversive to be country, too safe-home to be rock, Gram Parsons was the missing link between Hank Williams and the Rolling Stones — a cosmic cowboy with a rock'n'roll heart.

"Gram redefined the possibilities of country music for me," Keith Richards told Parsons' biographer, Ben Fong-Torres. "If he had lived he probably would have redefined it for everybody."

Parsons was pronounced dead at 12.30am on September 19, 1973, following a drug overdose in the Joshua Tree Inn in the Californian desert. He was 47 days short of his 27th birthday. A quarter of a century later, people are still exploring the possibilities of the soul-country-blues Parsons termed Cosmic American Music.

His long-time champions include Emmylou Harris, Elvis Costello, Tom Petty, REM, P-Model and Evan Dando.

Ann Scanlon pays tribute to the myth and memory of Gram Parsons

but his influence is evident in everything from alternative country to Beck and the Verve.

"I spent a lot of time listening to Parsons in the early hours of the morning," says the Verve's Richard Ashcroft. "His version of *Love Hurts* is a classic example of how great country music can be — it's very simple, but you can't deny how you feel when you've heard it."

The impenetrable sadness that runs through Parsons' music can be traced back to a rich Southern childhood that

was straight out of Tennessee Williams. Born Ingram Cecil Connor III, he inherited vast wealth from his mother and deep melancholy from his father, who shot himself when Gram was just 12. His mother remarried a salesman called Bob Parsons before drinking herself to death.

The teenage Parsons found comfort in country music. After a brief stint in the Byrds — long enough to record the album *Sweetheart Of The Rodeo* — he became friends with Keith Richards and dreamt of forming a country version of the Rolling Stones. He came close when the Flying Burrito Brothers recorded *The Gilded Palace Of Sin* in 1969.

On tour, Parsons cracked, fragile voice — which wavered even more when fuelled by drink and drugs — regularly reduced people to tears. "It's simply a way of saying, 'Find a way to love,'" Parsons said of the Burritos' sound. "It's goosebump music."

However, disillusioned by lack of success, Parsons went

## They quote me here, they quote me there

Jack Dangers is the man everyone wants to sample. Lisa Verrico meets Mr Meat Beat Manifesto

Jack Dangers should be bitter. The Swindon-born, San Francisco-based musician has been sampled by the cream of the UK dance scene for over a decade, yet his name is barely known even in clubland. While the Prodigy, Chemical Brothers, Fatboy Slim and Future Sound Of London have all made big money from hit singles based on snippets of his songs, he has not received a penny of the profits. Moreover, although it was Dangers who taught his peers how to turn experimental, electronic music into commercial pop, his own band, Meat Beat Manifesto, has never been in the British charts.

According to the 34-year-old techno pioneer, however, neither recognition nor a healthy bank balance have ever been important. Influenced by the likes of Kraftwerk, Can, John

Public Enemy and Eric B and Rakim. Out of step with the then fashion for sparser house and techno, *Radio Babylon* was initially ignored. In the early 1990s, however, a teenage Liam Howlett fell for the track. Howlett, who had formed the Prodigy the previous year, contacted Dangers to remix a track from his debut EP, *What*



"I have never sued anyone for sampling my records without asking," says Jack Dangers

the fact that he had neither been asked his permission nor was due to benefit financially from the song's success.

"I have never sued anyone for sampling my records without asking," says Dangers. "It's not in my nature. I know this sounds ridiculous, but I don't want to be seen as some money-grabbing musician. It doesn't even annoy me. Nor do I feel flattered by it. What I do get is a sense of achievement. I give myself a quick pat on the back, then return to what I was doing. It also keeps me on my feet. I have to keep pushing music on so that I'm always one step ahead."

Beat Manifesto releases its seventh album, *Actual Sounds + Voices*. A difficult, occasionally inaccessible, but always intriguing collection of densely produced songs, it was culled from more than 60 hours of studio sessions.

Unfortunately, *Actual Sounds + Voices* is unlikely to bring Dangers the commercial success he deserves. Remaining underground, however, means he can continue to get away with sampling some

of his all-time favourite artists without paying royalties. "I have been sued only once. It was for using a jazz break from a 1950s Blue Note classic by Horace Silver. I see sampling as the aural equivalent of pop art. It involves taking something that already exists, then altering it to create a new product. Sadly, few people share my opinions on sampling. The worst part of releasing records is waiting for the phone calls from my lawyer."

My aim has always been to inspire others



Gram Parsons, who died 25 years ago this month

to Europe with the Stones. He showed them how to play country with feeling and introduced them to his pedal steel guitarist. They returned the favour by letting him record *Wild Horses* before they did.

Bored with the Burritos, Parsons met an unknown singer called Emmylou Harris. They sang an impromptu duet and he knew that he had found the Tammy Wynette to his George Jones. With the help of Harris and Elvis Presley's band, Parsons recorded two extraordinary solo albums, *GP* and *Grievous Angel*.

But before the latter was released, he was dead. In order to carry out Parsons' wish to be cremated in the desert, his tour manager Phil Kaufman borrowed a hearse, stole the coffin, drove out to the Joshua Tree and set the body alight. It was the perfect finale.

A tribute to Gram Parsons takes place at the Garage, London, NS, on Sep 19, *Hickory Wind: The Life & Times Of Gram Parsons* by Ben Fong-Torres is published by St Martin's Press on Oct 13

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE BELOW

**ALAN CLARK FORUM**

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister.

The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

Please book me... ticket(s) at £10 and/or... ticket(s) @ £7.50 (concs) for The Times/Dillons Alan Clark Forum

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore Value £ \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please write your name, address and card number on the back of the cheque

Or, please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Switch/Delta card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Switch cards only)

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please post coupon and remittance to:  
The Times/Dillons Alan Clark Forum  
Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ  
Tel: 0171 461 1613 (24-hr/7-day answering)

Please note that tickets will be posted until September 9 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171 636 1577 to confirm your booking.

\* Wednesday, September 23, 1998

asgard presents

**nick lowe**

with special guests  
spooner oldham & dan penn

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE  
— HAYMARKET — LONDON —  
Box: 0171 494 5053

Sunday 29th November 1998

with special guests  
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE  
— HAYMARKET — LONDON —  
Box: 0171 494 5053

Sunday 29th November 1998

"Dig My Mood" out now on Demon Records

سكزا من الأهل



37

POP ALBUMS  
Preachers' latest

# Far more mainstream than manic

NEW POP ALBUMS: The eagerly awaited fifth release by Manic Street Preachers is formulaic, says David Sinclair

**MANIC STREET PREACHERS**  
*This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours* (Epic 4917036, £15.99)  
THEY are revered as oracles of alternative pop wisdom despite their unreliable haircuts. But behind all the pseudo-revolutionary rhetoric, Manic Street Preachers have always peddled a fairly conservative musical formula, and never more so than on their fifth album *This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours*.

Defined by the orthodox arena-rock guitar sound of James Dean Bradfield and the heavy drum fills of Sean Moore, the album is given further mainstream polish by string arrangements on several tracks and the uplifting, anthemic choruses of numbers such as *The Everlasting* and *You Stole The Sun From My Heart*.

But while the music has a bold, grown-up air about it, the lyrics, written by bassist Nicky Wire, continue to flow from a seemingly bottomless well of teenage art-student angst. Mistaking polemic for poetry, Wire doesn't so much write verse as weave together slogans inspired by his frank-

ly hysterical musings on such pressing issues of concern as the Spanish Civil War (*If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next*), the Hillsborough football stadium disaster (*South Yorkshire Mass Murderer*) and "Welsh self-destruction" (*Ready For Drowning*).

Bradfield, the man charged with the job of actually singing such deeply unsexy lines as: "The subtext of this song/I've thought about it for so long" does his bit with commendable gusto. But there is such an air of weary narcissism pervading numbers such as *My Little Empire* ("I'm bored of being bored") and *Born A Girl* ("I wish I had been born a girl/And not this mess of a man") that you begin to wonder at what point the righteous anger of youth turns into the sanctimonious bluster of the professionally disaffected.

**MARILYN MANSON**  
*Mechanical Animals* (Nothing/Interscope INTD 90273, £15.99)

A SHOCK-ROCK huckster in the tradition of Alice Cooper, Marilyn Manson and his group of the same name can hardly be surprised that no one has taken their music very

seriously before now. Their fourth album, *Mechanical Animals*, is adorned with a provocative "nude" photograph of their avowedly Satanist leader, a 29-year-old man once known as Brian who now appears to have mutated into a red-eyed hermaphrodite eunuch.

But this time around Manson has attempted to put some musical flesh on the bones of his carefully contrived image, enlisting producer Michael Beinhorn, who is known for his work with the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hole and Soundgarden.

The result is a collection of cartoon electro-glam-rock songs such as *Rock Is Dead* and *I Don't Like The Drugs*, that will sit comfortably on the shelf alongside those almost-forgotten albums by Babylon Zoo and Gary Numan. Heavily influenced by Ziggy Stardust-era David Bowie, numbers such as *Disassociative* and *Last Day On Earth* are steeped in predictable sci-fi imagery, while *User Friendly* comes garnished with strangely innocuous clusters of the F-word.

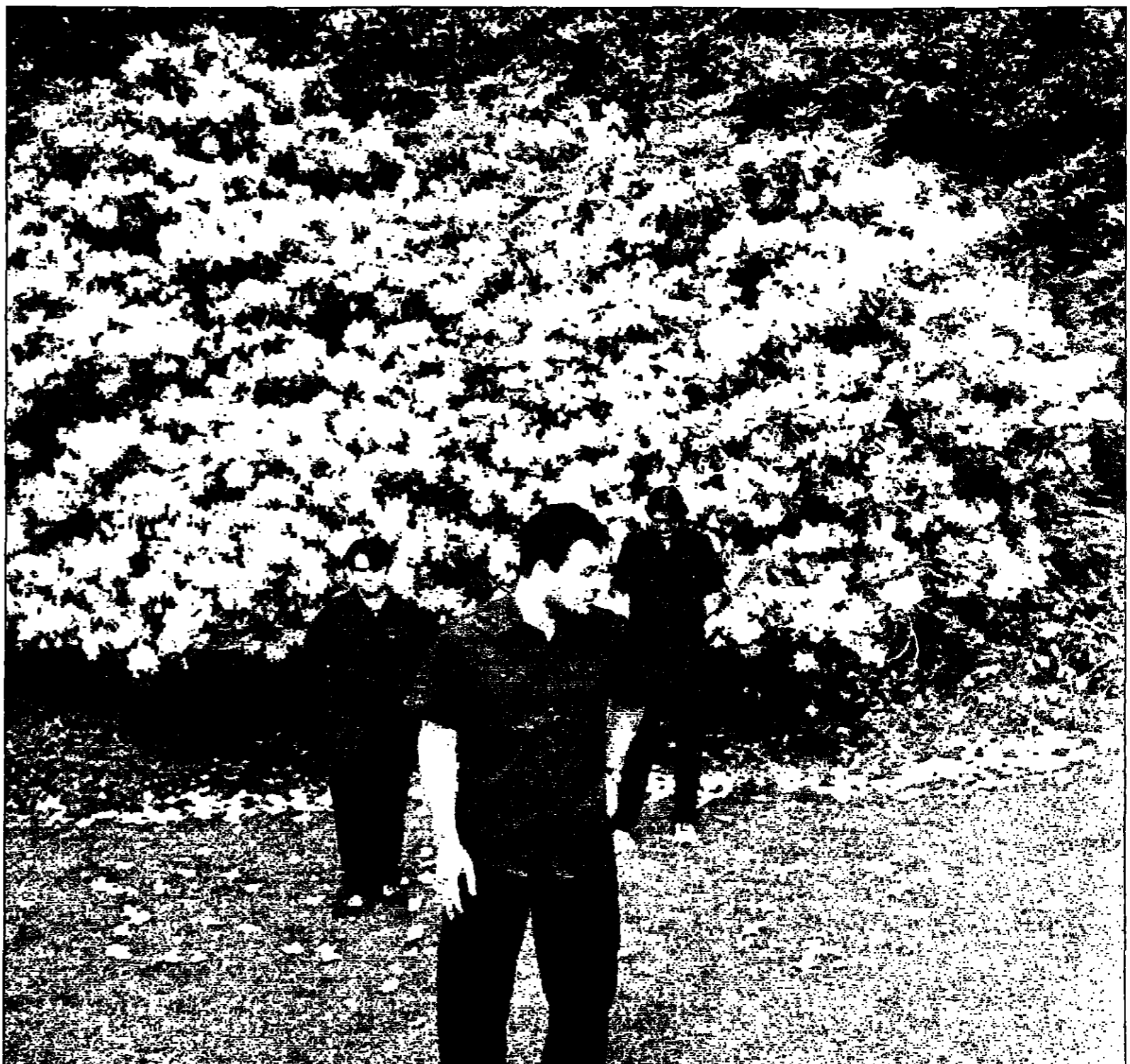
"I'm as fake as a wedding cake," Manson sings in *New Model*, somewhat giving the game away, but banging on happily regardless.

**STEPS**  
*Step One* (Jive 0519112, £15.99)  
"LIFE is always sunny in Stepsworld" according to the Steps press release, a document so relentlessly upbeat it would probably give Nicky Wire heart failure.

A five-piece group of fresh-faced girls and boys recruited by manager Tim Byrne via an

# ARTS

BLUES ALBUMS  
Titanic ditties



Manic Street Preachers: hailed as oracles of alternative pop wisdom, the band trade in pseudo-revolutionary rhetoric that masks conservative lyrics

advertisement in *The Stage*, and helped on their way by 1980s pop Svengali Pete Waterman. Steps have already demonstrated an eerie populist appeal with a string of hit singles — *5.6.7.8*, *Last Thing On My Mind* and *One For Sorrow* — all included here.

But it is interesting to note how much care and pride has gone into assembling the rest of their first album, *Step One*. A collection of infectious disco tunes and smoochy ballads, all very modern-sounding but influenced here and there by Abba, it is clearly destined for extended success in what is rapidly turning into a golden era of post-Spice pop.

**MOTT THE HOOPLE**  
*All The Young Dudes — The Anthology* (Columbia 491 400; three discs, £35.99)  
GARISH, koutish and lumpen, yet tremendously endearing, Mott The Hoople were the quintessential English rock'n'roll band of the

1970s. Their idea was to combine the swagger of the Rolling Stones with the poetic appeal of Bob Dylan, but in the end it was David Bowie who provided them with their biggest hit, *All The Young Dudes*, thereby inspiring them to advance, at quite a late stage in their career, beyond the

realms of pub-rock mediocrity. All the highs and more than enough of the lows are included on this painstakingly annotated and lavishly illustrated three-CD boxed set. The remastered hits, including *All The Way From Memphis*, *Roll Away The Stone* and the sub-

lime *Saturday Gigs*, sound wonderful, while the 37 "previously unreleased" tracks have a certain awful curiosity value. A book, *Mott The Hoople And Ian Hunter — The Biography* by Campbell Devine is published by Cherry Red to tie in with the anthology's release.



Guru of glam rock: Marilyn Manson's latest effort, *Mechanical Animals*, is destined to be quickly forgotten

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

- |        |                     |                                  |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 (1)  | Where We Belong     | Boyzone (Polydor)                |
| 2 (2)  | Talk on Corners     | Carrs (Atlantic)                 |
| 3 (3)  | Savage Garden       | Savage Garden (Columbia)         |
| 4 (5)  | Blue                | Simply Red (East West)           |
| 5 (14) | Tubular Bells III   | Mike Oldfield (WEA)              |
| 6 (4)  | Life Goes On        | Sash! (Mushroom)                 |
| 7 (8)  | Life Through a Lens | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)      |
| 8 (9)  | 200% Colombian      | Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis) |
| 9 (7)  | Six                 | Messiah (Parlophone)             |
| 10 (6) | One Night Only      | Bee Gees (Polydor)               |

## Showcase for a new generation

**DAMON BROWN QUINTET**  
*A Rhythm Indicative* (Zah Zah ZZCD 9806)  
AS a showcase for a representative sample of the newly established generation in UK jazz, this album, led by trumpeter Damon Brown, is hard to beat.

In addition to his crisp, fleet trumpet it also features a superbly cohesive core band: the pleasantly gruff saxophonist/flautist Andy Panayl, the witty-ly rambunctious pianist Gareth Williams and the superb rhythm team of bassist Geoff

**NEW JAZZ ALBUMS**  
Gascayne and drummer Winston Clifford.  
With telling guest appearances from saxophonists Tim Garland and Christian Brewster and pianist Jonathan Geer, with a bag of original compositions ranging from sinuous blues and light funk to the brisk chases across neat, accommodating chord sequences favoured by hard bop, this is a highly auspicious debut from one of the UK's most versatile younger musicians.

through the swirling *Espresso* to the reflective solo-bass threnody *Miya*, and his use of what he terms the extra sonic space resulting from the presence of John Scofield's guitar in place of the more conventional keyboard is particularly felicitous.  
With drummer Bill Stewart underpinning Paitucci's big, booming bass sound, and with almost an embarrassment of riches in the soloing department, this is top-flight 1990s jazz rich and subtle, vigorous and unfussily virtuosic.

## Great ship and good music

**BLUES ALBUMS**  
reissue of the album he cut for Capitol records in Hollywood in 1944, *Huddie Ledbetter's Best* (Bear Goes On BGOCD403). With his 12-string guitar he powers his way through his best-known songs including *Goodnight Irene*, *Ella Speed*, *Take This Hammer* and *Rock Island Line*. What blues writer Tony Russell calls Ledbetter's "elemental power and emotion" is also evident on the two solo piano tracks he recorded at the session. *The Eagle Rocks* and *Eagle Rock Rag* (basically the same number with vocals) recall, with their thunderously percussive rhythms, the music he played in

rural juke joints. Another blues legend, *Big Bill Broonzy*, has the cream of his prewar work collected on *Warm, Witty & Wise* (Columbia 489893 2). Although many of the tracks have been reissued before it's good to have classics like *Just A Dream*, *Southern Flood*, *I Can't Be Satisfied* and *Trucking Little Woman* available again from one of the most dextrous guitar pickers and expressive vocalists of the 1930s and 1940s.  
A decade or so later the home of deep soul music was undoubtedly Memphis Tennessee, and Stax Records' 5000 Volts of Stax (Stax CDSXD 116) collects tracks cut during that era, but which have until now remained unissued. Rufus Thomas applies his gruff, gutbucket vocals to the Jimmie Taylor hit *Who's Makin' Love*, his daughter Carla tackles the William Bell and Judy Clay number *My Baby Specializes*, and Detroit bluesmen Little Sonny tells us that *Things Ain't Kosher*. But the most poignant track is the instrumental *Sissy*, cut by the Bar-Kays in March 1967. Eight months later in the plane crash that killed Otis Redding.

THE TIMES

# MONDAY

Don't miss the full coverage of Tottenham v Middlesbrough in Monday's 30p Times.

The Times. Now only 30p weekdays.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Only applicable in mainland Britain.

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

... from our principles



LISTINGS

A new Othello from ENO

ARTS

In thrall to her forbidden passion



Daniel Harding conducts WNO's Jenufa in Cardiff

RECOMMENDED TODAY Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

LONDON BBC PROMS: In the penultimate concert of the season...

COLISEUM: The company's first new production this autumn is Verdi's Otello...

MIDORI: The famed violinist makes her long-awaited visit to the Wigmore Hall...

ELSEWHERE CARDIFF: Welsh National Opera opens its autumn season with a new production of Jenufa...

NEW WEST END SHOWS Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- AMADEUS: David Suchet plays the envious Salieri in Peter Hall's production...
- CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: First production of the Steam Industry's so-called Discipline Season...
- PERSONALS: Love via the small side: British premiere for New York comedy musical revue...
- PHEDRE: Diana Rigg heads a superb cast in Jonathan Kent's production of Racine's tragedy...
- VIA DOLOROSA: David Hare returns in his own one-man play...
- FULL GALLOP: Mary Louise Wilson's performance as Diana Vreeland...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

- NEW RELEASES BABYMOOTHER (15): Single mother dreams of being a DJ queen...
- COUSIN BETTE (15): Adaptation of Balzac's novel about a scheming woman...
- THE HORSE WHISPERER (12): The original and best-selling adaptation of Nicholas Evans's best-seller...
- LA VIE DE JEANNE (15): Rigorous but tender French film about a young woman...
- CURRENT HANDS (PG): Erotic, leering, dialogue-free Russian film...
- THE KILLERS (15): Murder and Scully tumble upon an extra-terrestrial virus...

On Wednesday night Diana Rigg tackled the role of Phedre for the second time and got it right, or as right as any performance of Racine's jaggedly wired queen could reasonably or unreasonably be expected to be. That wasn't the case 20 years ago at the Old Vic, partly because she was acting in a production which suggested that Racine's first name was Ruyard, not Jean...

A right royal mismatch

The National Theatre of Brent (founder, artistic director, chief executive, Desmond Oliver Dingle) went into hibernation ten years ago, to the grief of all lovers of judicious mockery. The company was due to make its comeback last autumn with this not-wholly-respectful tribute to the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales...



Wild at heart: Diana Rigg as Phedre with Toby Stephens as Hippolytus in the Almeida's staging of Racine

The translator is none other than Ted Hughes, at whose opening colloquialisms some may quail. "Life here in Troezen is extremely pleasant," announces Hippolytus, "but I can't hang around doing nothing."

Ibsen echoes

In the small auditorium at the Norwegian National Theatre a large scenic backdrop hung upon the wall. It would have served well for an old-fashioned production of Brand. And indeed an actress with a copy of Ibsen's play did start reading its stage directions at one point.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

This review appeared in late editions yesterday. The bride-to-be is named Agnes, after Brand's wife. The dramatist also underscores the parallel between the two couples in other ways. Above all, there is Wittgenstein's psychological similarity to Ibsen's hero: both commit themselves to their missions on an all-or-nothing basis...

ART GALLERIES THEATRES BLOOMSBURY THEATRE DONMAR WAREHOUSE THE BLUE ROOM NATIONAL THEATRE THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND COMEDY CENTRE THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA LONDON APOLLO HER MAJESTIES THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PALACE THEATRE THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE DRAYTON COURT THE CHERRY ORCHARD

سكزا من الأصل



# It's Monty's grave new world

If you pull out a newspaper, particularly a tabloid, in the shuttle lounge at Heathrow, Belfast or Glasgow airports you could quickly be engaged in conversation by a dapper figure with an Ulster accent and an inordinate interest in what you are reading. He'll want to know in detail what you liked about today's paper and which stories you read.

"If I am in the Belfast lounge I don't need an introduction. They know me once I start talking. But they don't know me in Scotland and I only say who I am if they ask. I just strike up a conversation," says David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group, publishers of *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *The People*, *Scottish Daily Record* and the *Racing Post*.

He avoids the business-class lounge, where the papers are free, to conduct research among the newspaper-buying classes. In an age of gently declining national newspaper circulations he finds his airport conversations encouraging. People, he discovers, like their papers, believe them to be good value, carry them around and refer to them, and have strong opinions about the world.

"The thing that distinguishes all newspaper readers is that they are individuals who make up their minds about life. Regrettably, it's the people who don't read newspapers who need help in this country," says Montgomery.

From his ad hoc research and the appearance of his victims, Montgomery believes it is impossible to distinguish, in class terms, the readers of *The Mirror*, the *Record*, *Daily Mail* or *The Express* from each other. It lends support to his theory that *The Mirror* should not just be in a struggle with *The Sun* but should be targeting the entire tabloid market with a *Mirror* that treats the main stories of the day in a more serious manner.

"All middle-class readers are potential readers of *The Mirror*," says Montgomery, who admits that he interfered editorially last week over a *Mirror* headline. He didn't like the way the plan to move *News at Ten* was headlined by a series of front page "Bongs". It was out of kilter, he thought, with the new, more serious *Mirror*.

"I like amusing headlines. I made my living writing them for a while. But let's be witty and stylish at the same time if the paper is becoming more serious," he says.

Montgomery points to *The Mirror's* coverage of the Swissair crash to illustrate what he means. *The Sun*, he points out, printed a colourful version of the last minute in the cockpit of the doomed plane when the paper couldn't have known what happened. *The Mirror* didn't. There has also been, Montgomery says, a fall in complaints about the paper. And recently when the editorial management heard there were allegations that a reporter had broken into a house in search of information the allegations were taken to the police. "There is a culture

The wild days of *The Mirror* are over, says chief executive David Montgomery. It's now upfront and a very serious tabloid. Ray Snoddy asks if the culture change can work

now developing that you don't push stories beyond where you can stand them up. Instead you use your brains to project them in an exciting and dramatic fashion," says Montgomery.

There is impressive posthumous support for the new line. Viscount Rothermere told a friend just before his death earlier this month that he thought *The Mirror* was a much improved newspaper and perhaps more of a competitive threat.

Today the latest circulation figures are expected to show that for the third month running there has been a modest *Mirror* sales rise of a few thousand — hardly anything to cheer about but, if confirmed, evidence of greater stability in the market. Yesterday the *Mirror* Group was able to announce an 11 per cent

increase in profits, before tax and exceptional items, to £49 million in the six months to July 5 on turnover that was up only 2 per cent.

It was a brief moment of respite, if you believe the headlines, for a chief executive who is on the way out following the fiasco of the postponed relaunch of *The Sporting Life*. This follows the acrimonious sacking of its prelaunch Editor John Mulholland, formerly of *The Guardian*, and the apparent lack of a future strategy after the decision by the Axel Springer group of Germany not to go ahead with a formal bid for the *Mirror* Group.

Montgomery, a former sub-editor on the *Daily Mirror* and Editor of *Today*, and *The News of the World*, says he is getting on with his strategy of reducing the group's dependence on national newspapers and contesting what he believes are damaging and inaccurate articles about the group's affairs.

"The reporting is extreme and is intended to do companies commercial damage," says Montgomery, who has visited Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, to see if anything can be done, although he has not made a formal complaint against any individual newspaper. Lord Wakeham, it is believed, plans to write to editors to see whether there is general concern about how newspapers cover the affairs of rivals.

The combative Montgomery is most incensed about the coverage

of *The Sporting Life* affair: "We had an editor who found his work (on a dummy edition) was criticised — not by us, he was supported by us. But the first research results found that it lacked vitality and that seems to have been a flashpoint. The other flashpoint was that he was asked to do better and the next day we read about it in *The Guardian*."

John Mulholland insists he was allowed to hire people after the decision had been taken to postpone the launch. Yesterday Victor Blank, the *Mirror* chairman, said the company hoped to research formats for a new *Sporting Life* in the autumn. It will be a broadly based daily designed to cover the lifestyle of sports fans rather than just being a "jock-strap" publication.

"It will take into account the fact that some days of sport are busier than others and that you don't have to be the same size every day or the same price," Montgomery says.



But this week's battle is against Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Independent group, publishers of both *The Independent* in Britain, and the *Irish Independent*. In an interview, O'Reilly heaped blame on his former partners at *The Independent*, the *Mirror* Group. His company had wanted to invest in the future of *The Independent* and the *Mirror* vetoed it, says O'Reilly.

"Total crap," says Montgomery, "because the collective board of *The Independent* made a decision last year to invest in the relaunch — not *The Independent*, not *The Mirror* but the board, backed by management, and we gave Andrew Marr (the former Editor) the money and the board backed that."

"At the last moment I said that the dummy stinks and we shouldn't do this but it went ahead because we couldn't pull back, and it didn't work. Tony O'Reilly was always at my shoulder saying every business could be downsized and although we want a quality product we don't want to pay any more for it."

Montgomery says he loves his job and will stay on as long as the board and shareholders want him. He also says he is more proud of the *Mirror* titles than at any time in the past. "I am much happier with them today than I would have been five years ago and through my earlier career with *Mirror* Group," he says. "I felt they were too dependent on history and were living on their laurels. Now we have editors with minds of their own who want to change their papers and leave their stamp on them, and that modernising process is more fulfilling for everybody in the company."



David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group: All middle-class readers are potential readers of *The Mirror*

## Heads I win, tails I win

Rupert Murdoch is not known as a philanthropist. He is simply a businessman with a defined strategy who is constantly and resolutely seeking to further his global interests — for example, by seeking to acquire Manchester United — in just the same way that British Airways, British Telecom and thousands of other companies are doing every day.

What is more, the intended purchase of Manchester United by a media group will be the first of several in this country.

Such an acquisition is a logical fit for a broadcaster and it comes as no surprise that Carlton Communications is in talks with Arsenal.

Whether we like it or not, sport is business and has been since the time when a Second Division club called Newton Heath went bankrupt and ceased at the end of the 1901-02 season — only to be reformed as Manchester United.

Ironically Rupert Murdoch's early days of the four-channel Sky Television very nearly ended in bankruptcy before being saved in 1991 by the bold acquisition of the Premier League rights. The injection of vast sums of Murdoch money funded a facelift that was long overdue.

As a result, we no longer have just one of the better leagues in Europe, but the aptly named Premier League. It is a league for which Canal Plus and Mark McCormack's International Management Group national Management Group have both an input into the format of the new competition and instant access to its television rights.

The same would apply, of course, to Carlton should it acquire Arsenal.

Thirdly, because Manchester United is the world's best-known football club, ownership would help Mr Murdoch to attract subscribers worldwide. BSKyB's existing agree-



Big business takes over on the terraces: Michael Green, of Carlton, is in talks with Arsenal, while Rupert Murdoch is moving in on Manchester United's Old Trafford, centre

Media tycoons running sports super-teams is nothing unusual, says Richard Russell

ment with the Premier League comes under the scrutiny of the Restrictive Practices Court in early January with the charge that the Premier League acted as a "cartel" by negotiating en-bloc for its constituent clubs.

The deal, due to expire at the end of the 2000-01 season, could well be deemed unacceptable by the court, which would have the power to strike out the agreement and ban any such collective agreements in future. There is no appeal on matters of fact from the court.

By owning Manchester United, BSKyB immediately becomes privy to all discussions on both sides of all future negotiating tables.

Similarly, in 2001 or earlier, should the court decide, BSKyB would hold a very strong card should the Premier League opt to start its own channel.

Should the court rule the existing agreement to be anti-competitive, then BSKyB is again a winner by owning the Premier League's most prestigious club and all associated rights.

That said, football does need a situation whereby, for example, BSKyB — a satellite broadcaster — owns and controls Manchester United whereas Arsenal, for example, is owned by Carlton Communications — an analogue terrestrial and digital terrestrial broadcaster.

Logically, the match at Old Trafford would be pay-per-view on BSKyB, with the High-bury fixture shown on terrestrial television. Exclusivity would, therefore, become synonymous with a club rather than a league, as at present.

able, therefore, that when a broadcaster such as BSKyB buys the biggest club in the land, we have concerns. BSKyB could, by owning the country's biggest club, offer its home matches on pay-per-view via MUFC, which was launched yesterday, and charge any price it chooses.

But the economic maxim of supply and demand will always exist and it is in BSKyB's best interest to make viewing financially attractive.

Canal Plus, which has more than ten million analogue and digital subscribers across Europe and Africa, has already moved some way ahead of Murdoch when it comes to its involvement in European football.

In addition to controlling Servette and Paris Saint-Germain, it has just announced that on behalf of its 90 per cent-owned Tele+ outlet in Italy, it has acquired the pay television and pay-per-view rights to Juventus, AC Milan, Internazionale and Napoli which, in the 1997-98 season, accounted for 70 per cent of the total pay revenues derived from Serie A teams.

As a further part of the deal, Canal Plus has acquired the exclusive worldwide television rights — including those for free-to-air, pay and pay-per-view, to Juventus, Internazionale and AC Milan from September 1999 until June 2005.

Additionally, Juventus will wear the D+ logo of Canal Plus's Italian digital service during Serie A matches and the Tele+ logo for Champions League games.

AS Roma, who finished fourth last season — and qualified for the UEFA Cup — is not included and have reportedly been put up for sale.

Richard Russell is the writer and publisher of the independent monthly publication Sports Television: The Ever Changing Face



# Hard lesson when dog bites dog

Journalists do their jobs every day without any understanding of how their daily work will affect the lives of the subjects of their reports. As Simon Hoggart noted in *The Guardian* last week, to most of us — even those in the trade — news is something out there, something we look on through a glass screen.



It is not often, therefore, that journalists find themselves on the other side of that glass screen and at the sharp and suffering end of the newspaper craft. Yet as Tim Hames, a leader writer on *The Times* and co-author of the Demos pamphlet *Modernising the Monarchy*, which made front page headlines on Sunday and Monday, discovered this week, it is hard work being the subject of a hot news story. A journalist quickly learns sharp lessons about the modern media industry when he becomes poacher turned gamekeeper and Hames is now a sadder and wiser man.

that he had written articles for *The Independent on Sunday*, *The Times* and *Newsweek*. Another saddening lesson is that journalists rarely write the story that the subject had in mind — which is why experts often complain that when they read about their subject in newspapers, journalists always get it wrong. Space is always tight, which means that most reports will merely skim the contents of a political

**'Hames was surprised by the spin the tabloids gave it — which was not the spin he wanted'**

pamphlet, and journalists will also seek the angle on a story that will deliver the most arresting headline.

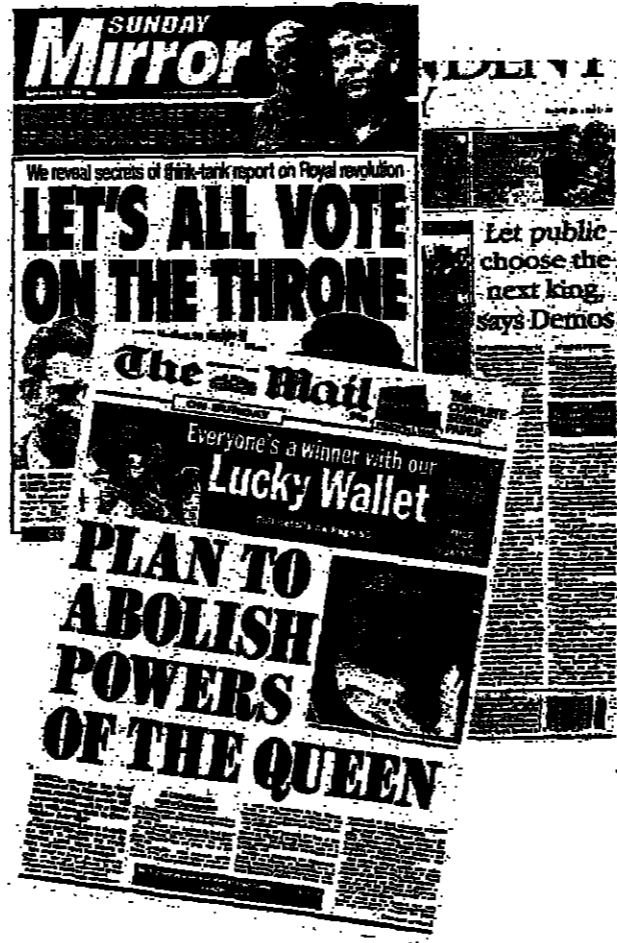
As a journalist himself, Hames knew the spin that he and co-author Mark Leonard wanted to put on the Demos pamphlet. They did not want the story to appear on the dead news day of Saturday. So they deliberately embargoed the report for Monday, meanwhile agreeing a scoop with *The Independent on Sunday*. It was a good deal for both parties. Hames and Leonard got 1,500 words to tell their own unedited story, most of another page was given over to an analysis of the pamphlet, and *The Inde-*

pendent on Sunday commissioned a MORI poll to flesh the story out. The *IoS* knew that it had a potential front page splash in the bag. Even professional spin-

doctors, however, find that journalists aren't lapdogs. So did Hames. He thought the best angle was MORI's finding that 60 per cent of the British thought the monarchy should be modernised — and that 49 per cent believed the Queen should relinquish her political role.

On the day, however, Kim Fletcher, Editor of the *IoS*, decided differently. Influenced by newspaper readers' complaints about the saturation coverage of the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, only a week earlier, which had also included many opinion polls, he decided to splash on a report that doctors would not be allowed to prescribe Viagra on the NHS. Instead of the Demos pamphlet. He then decided to lead Hames's story on the angle of a veto on the succession of Prince Charles instead of the opinion poll.

Hames was "flabbergasted". His response was to call *The Mail on Sunday* where he briefed political correspondent Chris McLaughlin, who was preparing a long article on the pamphlet. It was a successful stratagem. Hames was quoted comprehensively in the article published across two pages next morning and the paper led its front page on the story, as did the *Sunday Mirror*.



Big splash: the reaction to Tim Hames's royal pamphlet

been unveiled by a think-tank "with strong links to Tony Blair".

It is difficult to fault the accuracy of such reports. They are both true and not quite true. Yes, Geoff Mulgan, the founder of Demos, works in Downing Street. But he did not write the report and Hames suspects he was even embarrassed by it. Yes, some Demos reports have been influential in the making of new Labour policy and, yes, Tony Blair probably sympathises with some of the pamphlet's milder recommendations. But the Prime Minister was almost certainly unaware of the pamphlet and Downing Street quickly distanced him from it.

Hames admits ruefully that he was perhaps naive to expect better but says nevertheless that some of the reporting was "flagrant and knowingly dishonest" in its desperation to

convert the pamphlet into a new Labour enterprise.

Yet whatever the distortions, the amount of coverage *Modernising the Monarchy* received was a remarkable tribute to the power of the political pamphlet. If the ideas espoused by Demos took root, said Polly Toynbee in *The Guardian*, historians may look back and mark its pamphlet as one of the stations on the road to abolition. The print order was only 500 but some of its main recommendations have now, thanks to newspapers, been read by millions.

Yet for Hames, the leader writer, the greatest joy of his five minutes of fame was being described by Toynbee as a "political theorist". His next pamphlet is being written for Politica on the British constitution. He will be lucky, he says, if that gets reported on page two of the *Financial Times*.

# Money talks louder than loyal fans

BSkyB had a huge stroke of luck on Wednesday that had little to do with being able to announce a reorganised £623.4 million offer for Manchester United.

The financial negotiations were tense and went into extra time as Greg Dyke, the club's non-executive director, managed to get an impressive away result for the "Red Devils" by blocking the move until another £50 million or so was added to the purchase price.

Outplaying merchant bankers is one thing, getting a result on the pitch at Old Trafford quite another. If Charlton had beaten Manchester United in the Premiership match on Wednesday night the fans would have had a lot more to boo about.

As Manchester United won 4-1, it can safely be predicted that Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chief executive, will now not be strung up by his supporters and, as long as the club manages to keep winning over the next few weeks, there will indeed be a new era in British football.

Some people see difficulties in my writing about BSkyB's bid because, as the rest of the media enjoys pointing out, *The Times* is owned by News International, which in turn owns 40 per cent of the satellite broadcaster.

But it is very easy to gather together a few facts to set beside the emotion and hysteria. An unnamed supporter put it well on Wednesday from the fans' point of view: "The romance that started with the Munich air crash [that killed several of the Busby Babes] ended tonight."

The comment seems at first sight to hold a sad truth: the Manchester United that was "owned" by the fans and is a natural expression of their hopes and fears is now just something to be snapped up by an international media empire with complex motives.

In fact, if money is the antithesis of romance, the romance died not this week but in 1991 when Manchester United was floated on the Stock Exchange and money started to talk loudly. From that moment, the main responsibility of directors was to represent the interests of shareholders rather than of fans, and they had a legal responsibility to agree to an offer that compares favourably with the less than £20 million the club was worth a decade ago.

The next criticism BSkyB faces is that it will either run the club into the ground and

extract more and more money from the supporters, or will invest too much money and make Manchester United too powerful in the League.

The first is much less likely than the latter. It is massively in the satellite company's interest for the club to be a winner, but it would also be financially damaging if the Premier League were to become the boring, predictable plaything of a few large clubs.

But would owning Manchester United give BSkyB a "stranglehold" on Premier League television rights as the conventional wisdom goes? It is difficult to see how this would work, despite Manchester United's obvious influence, because each of the 20 clubs has a single vote and there is no reason for them all to do one club's bidding.

The Office of Fair Trading should and will thoroughly investigate the deal — in particular the increased vertical integration involved. Manchester United, the BSkyB subsidiary, will be selling its football rights to its parent company. The claim that Manchester United will be free to decide to whom to sell its rights does not seem credible.

A condition of the deal going through should be that in Premier League negotiations on television rights Manchester United will be allowed to express its view but will not have a vote on any proposal. Apart from that, it is not easy to see on what competition grounds the deal would be blocked. After all, Canal Plus, the French pay TV company, already owns the leading French club Paris Saint Germain, apparently in harmony with European competition law.

Although nobody is admitting it in public, the deal is primarily an insurance policy to salvage at least something if the Restrictive Practices Court rules next year that the present agreement between BSkyB, the BBC and the Premier League is illegal, or if in 2001, when the television rights deal expires, the clubs decide to buy satellite space and transmit their own football channels, cutting out the middleman.

If the Manchester United acquisition is cleared by the regulators, other digital television operators will be piling into the market — just in case.

Michael Green's Carlton Communications has begun talks with Arsenal. Let the battle commence...



Raymond Smoddy

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 4481

## MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX: 0171 782 7826

### DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

North West

£35,000 + benefits

In October, a merger between Bolton and Bury Chamber of Commerce and Bolton Bury Training and Enterprise Council will create an important new focus for business support and work force development in these Metropolitan Boroughs. To meet the challenges ahead, the new Chamber of Commerce, Training & Enterprise (CCTE) will need to strengthen its management team with two key appointments.

#### DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

With prime responsibility for growing the CCTE's membership, securing excellent services and networking opportunities and representing members' interests locally and nationally, this role requires someone with extensive experience in a membership-based organisation, preferably in the business support sector.

Excellent networking and interpersonal skills are required as well as an ability to contribute at a strategic level to the development of the new organisation. Management experience in a sales/marketing role would be an advantage. (Ref 607)

If you believe you are able to achieve visible success in either of these challenging roles, apply now, with full CV and quoting the appropriate reference number, to Tim Harris at Ashley Search & Selection, The Graftons, Stamford New Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1DQ. For more information about these roles, visit our web site at <http://www.ashley.co.uk> or call Tim Harris on 0161 927 7290.



**Ashley**  
SEARCH & SELECTION



### UK SALES MANAGER

ADVERTISING/MEDIA

£40,000 BASIC £60,000 OTE + BENEFITS

A unique opportunity to join one of the fastest growing media owners. A senior position giving the successful candidate a very high degree of autonomy to further enhance and develop the rapid progress made to date.

#### THE COMPANY

- Wholly owned subsidiary of a young International Public Company operating throughout Europe, Scandinavia and the United States.
- Working in partnership with the majority of the UK's largest fuel and convenience retailers.
- A unique core product, which obtains unprecedented recall and awareness figures.
- A young and dynamic European team, results orientated yet very creative and practicing an open modern management style.
- A highly competitive package combined with a fascinating challenge makes this a unique opportunity.

#### THE ROLE

- The promotion and development of our successful advertising concept.
- The development of a long-term customer platform with major advertisers.
- To optimise repeat business with existing clients and ensure a professional after-sales service.
- To continually develop the Sales Strategy working in close association with the Managing Director and Marketing Manager.
- The motivation, management and ongoing development of a dedicated and loyal sales team.
- The financial management, reporting and assessment of the sales function.

#### YOU

- You will be of graduate calibre with at least 3 years' experience in direct sales.
- A media or advertising background could be an advantage.
- An excellent negotiator with a proven sales track record within all levels of client organisations.
- Creative, analytical and computer literate.
- An entrepreneurial outlook combined with goal orientated and self-motivated approach.
- A hard-working team player, with proven management experience.
- Gregarious, sense of humour essential.



To learn more about this outstanding opportunity contact our consultant, Una McGuinness, at Phee Farrer Jones on the number below or write to her at Alhambra House, 27-31 Charring Cross Road, London WC2H 0AU. Tel: 0171 925 2235 Fax: 0171 925 1411

Email [PFJ@Easynet.co.uk](mailto:PFJ@Easynet.co.uk) Website [www.pheefarrerjones.co.uk](http://www.pheefarrerjones.co.uk)



### International media-sales executives

£14,750 + substantial bonus + benefits

Sterling Publishing Group PLC is the UK's most successful and long established publisher of controlled circulation books and magazines for trade and industry. Our 200+ strong sales force is engaged in selling advertisement pages and internet services to blue chip companies throughout the U.S.A., Europe and Asia. Sales operations are London based using sophisticated and proven telephone sales techniques. We are currently strengthening our sales force and we invite applications from graduate quality individuals who are able to communicate effectively and enthusiastically. Our structured career path includes basic and advanced training with continuous help and appraisals. Management opportunities exist for those who wish to develop careers within this exciting industry.

For an initial informal discussion and application form please telephone: 0171 262 4832 / 0171 262 4784

STERLING PUBLICATIONS LIMITED LONDON OFFICES

### SALES ADMINISTRATOR

Experienced administrator required for busy textile Agency.

Good communicator and telephone manner. Computer literate essential. Great working atmosphere. Send/fax cv with tel. number to P. Leers 121 Crawford Street, LONDON W2H 1AF Fax 0171 935 7934.

#### A CAREER IN THE CITY

We are one of the UK's fastest growing financial services organisations. We are looking for determined, successful and ambitious people, aged 25-35, who can recognise and take advantage of a highly rewarding career, an income that truly reflects your abilities, first class training and excellent prospects for early promotion. To find out more, call: 0171 576 7884

#### ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.....

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

### SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

Rapid growth media products sales

c £40,000, plus bonus, plus car

North East

This exponentially growing organisation is the world leader in the creation, design and marketing of interactive game products, which are supplied to a variety of market sectors, including broadcast media, publicity media, retail, consumer goods and the worldwide web. Within 3 years of start-up, this embryonic company now occupies the Number 1 world market position in this highly specialised niche, and is now targeting a 3-fold increase in sales over the next 3 year period.

This new position will work very closely with the Managing Director in the opening up of new business opportunities, on a global basis, in this exciting arena. Candidates will be proven business development professionals who have operated in a combined sales/marketing capacity at senior

level, probably with an advertising agency, promotions or PR group, and who have sold into the media sectors. Essential personal qualities are first class interpersonal and communication skills, a very high level of self-discipline, and the tenacity and ambition to grow with this very exciting company.

Please reply in confidence, enclosing your CV and current salary details, quoting Ref: ST6042, to Keith Thompson, Howgate Sable, 2 Amethyst Road, The Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YL. Tel: 0191-272 1000. Fax: 0191-272 1111.

e-mail: [kthompson@howgate-sable.co.uk](mailto:kthompson@howgate-sable.co.uk) Internet: <http://www.howgate-sable.co.uk>

HOWGATE SABLE **hs** International Search & Selection

Partnered with Kesser Corporation in North America

سكزا من الأهل

Tele that on the the Cable ch



talks louder  
loyal fans

# Television that battles on through the chaos

It is six in the evening and Channel-3 is putting together its nightly news bulletin, *Stolitsa*. This is television in its pioneering prime. The studio backdrop has been lashed up from a slatted window blind and the presenter, Angela Askabova, has to sit on a stack of books to bring her up to camera level. Angela, 26, is also the station's general manager and news editor.

Russia's pioneering city television is fighting for survival, says Michael Delahaye

Channel-3 is the independent television station for Syktyvkar (population: 250,000), the capital of the Komi Republic in Russia's frozen north.

Across the country — from Siberia to the Black Sea — there are an estimated 500 city-based stations, pumping out a daily fare of news, features, quizzes, soaps, movies and commercials. Competing against the two state networks, ORT and RTV, state-financed regional channels and a number of independent networks, they are an expression of both democracy and capitalism. Today their role has never been more important — or more threatening.

Such stations started almost by accident. Most Russian apartment blocks have a master antenna on the roof which transmits programmes to individual flats. *Entrepreneurial occupants realised they could relay tapes of pirated films and American soaps plucked from the sky to their neighbours for a small charge. Add to this a camcorder for some personalised linking material and you have a television station.*

From that it is a small step to hire or hoist a transmitter, and beam farther afield.

Channel-3's six-hour evening schedule is a respectable mix of the bought-in, sponsored and home-grown. But its flagship is its nightly news.

Tonight's bulletin comprises six stories: a local opera diva has returned from a masterclass in Moscow; a saw mill is installing new Western machinery; there have been a couple of killings; and, for the republic's border guards, today is an excuse to get well lubricated on their annual holiday.

The entire package will be prerecorded two hours before broadcast. Fortunately there aren't many breaking stories in Syktyvkar. In fact, during July and August the news service closes.

Channel-3's half dozen reporters, all women in their twenties, are skilled journalists and almost all of them are familiar with working on computers. The three cameramen lack formal training, but they turn in broadcast-quality material using



New television stations in Russia, such as Channel-3, sometimes find that the struggle to stay on air is at the cost of their hard-won independence

Super-VHS cameras costing a tenth of the Sony Betacam favoured by the "big boys".

Channel-3 is one of the more accurate of the home-grown stations. It is lucky in having a local university with a progressive faculty of journalism from which to recruit.

For 70 years in Russia a "journalist" was someone who lightly edited the latest government handout and, in their approach to reporting, many city-based stations still take their cue from the old Soviet handbook. The result can be a visual version of *Pravda*, with a reluctance to humanise social issues and focus on individuals. Nor do stations always distinguish between news and adverts. Paying to appear in a news item is not unknown.

Few stations can live by commercials and sponsorship alone. Unlike in Britain, where television advertising is more lucrative than both print and radio, in Russia it is the cheapest of the three. A station is doing well if it gets more than \$100 for a one-minute slot in prime time. And often the

payment will be not in cash, but in barter. Many stations end up doing a deal with their local municipality for subsidised accommodation or a contribution to operating costs. In return, the authorities may demand a right of access to the airwaves, which can come dangerously close to editorial interference.

The only other source of income is the sale of airtime to candidates in Russia's seemingly endless local, parliamentary and presidential elections. At up to \$500 a minute, it can prove irresistible. Some stations generate more than half their income this way. But there are dangers: at best, pressure on the station to be less than impartial; at worst, the inclusion of paid-for propaganda within news bulletins.

In the present economic climate, a national shake-out is inevitable. Some larger Russian cities now have five or more local channels, and a station has to broadcast for most of the evening to hold its audience. There are only three options: show pirated material (risky), produce its own

programmes (costly), or sign up with a "network provider" to fill the hole, often in return for a stake in the company.

TNT, part of the influential Media-Most Group, which also owns Russia's best-known independent channel, NTV, is one of the newest — and most aggressive — network providers. It already has about a hundred stations on its books and owns a few of them outright. Its latest acquisition is Syktyvkar's Channel-3.

Once part of a group, it is even harder for the city-based stations to maintain their free-wheeling independence.

Igor Malashenko, NTV's general director, denies they would ever use their TNT affiliates as political tools: "We always advise our partners to be as distanced or detached from political parties as much as they can."

Yet during the 1996 presidential elections, NTV — along with most other broadcasters — was seen as actively promoting Boris Yeltsin's candidacy against the Communists. The charitably inclined argue that this support was less for Mr

Yeltsin than for Russia's fledgling democracy, as represented by Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Malashenko believes that there would be no justification for supporting individual candidates next time: "I do not think that in the year 2000 the choice is going to be as dramatic or as historical as it was in 1996, when there was still a threat of some return to Communism."

That was before the political turmoil of recent weeks. Mr Malashenko and his colleagues in the independent sector may yet find themselves forced into a more overtly political role. For the city-based stations, though, the more immediate worry is less of editorial compromise than of financial ruin as Russia's market economy self-destructs. The only consolation will be journalistic: that of living in interesting times. Certainly there will be no lack of news for the evening bulletins.

Michael Delahaye's visit was financed by the Know How Fund, and organised by The Thomson Foundation and Internews Russia.

## You've read the magazine, now see the TV show

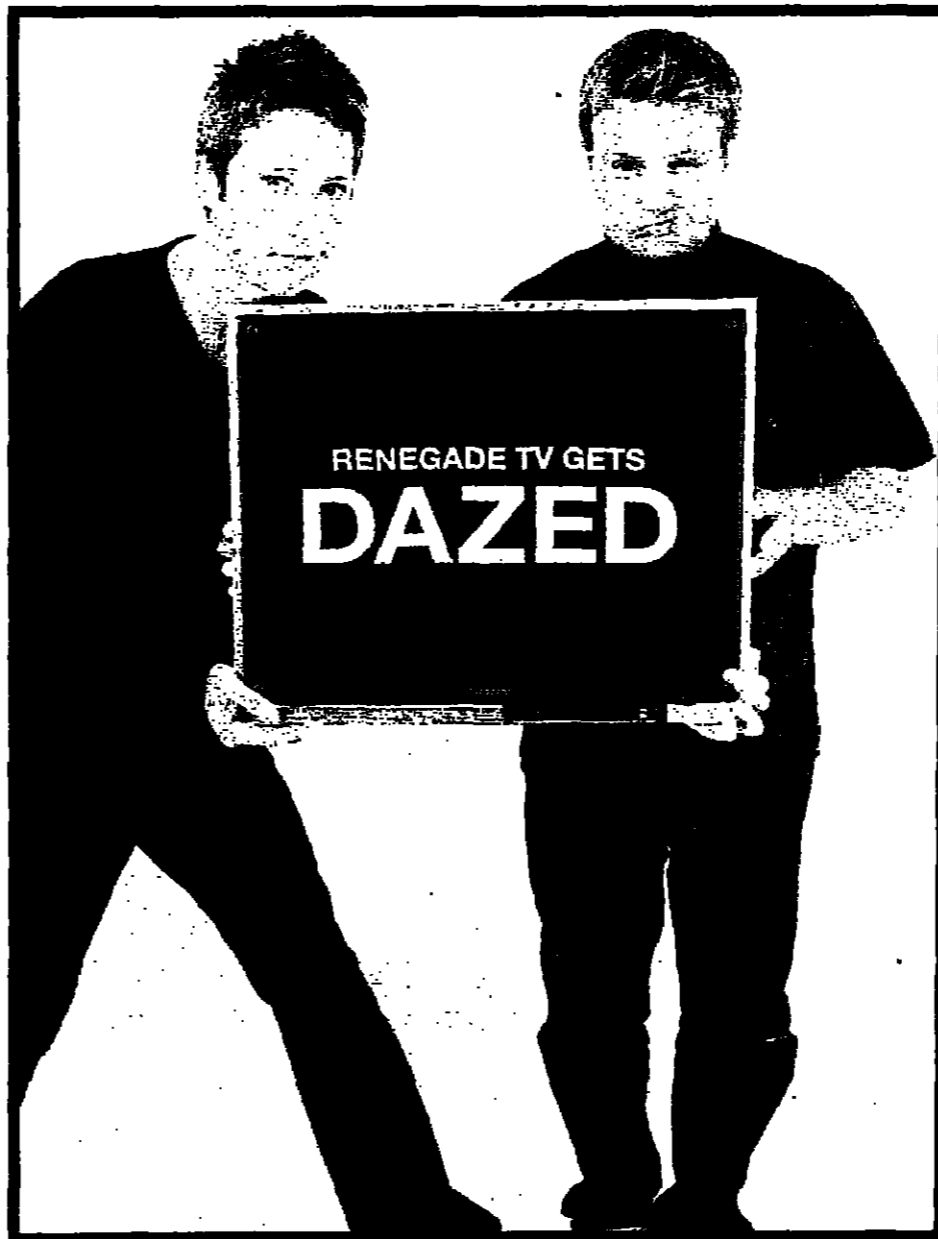
Next Thursday at 11.05pm a small yet important revolution will take place on Channel 4. For the first time on British terrestrial television, a magazine — the trendy style and culture monthly *Dazed and Confused* — will broadcast its own programme under its own name. Although the BBC has been lucratively spinning-off magazines from programmes for years, the Independent Television Commission has prevented commercial channels from turning the formula on its head and devising programmes based on magazines, for fear that publishers would simply create extended advertisements for their titles. This ban was lifted from cable and satellite channels a year ago, and from terrestrial channels two weeks ago, after intense pressure from publishers including Michael Heseltine, the former President of the Board of Trade, and a director of Haymarket Publishing. The only proviso was that "masthead" programmes did not carry exactly the same content as the publications they were based on, and that references to the publications were kept to a minimum.

Viewers will soon be watching programmes based on popular publications. Chris Ayres reports

The programme, a one-off, will be shown on Channel 4 on Thursday as part of its *Renegade TV* season, under the title "Renegade TV gets *Dazed*". At its first public airing, at the Edinburgh Television Festival last month, Waddell told his audience that television was boring, particularly youth-orientated shows such as Chris Evans's *TFI Friday*. "Irony and irreverence are what programme-makers use to disguise lack of content," he said.

The ITC will be heartened to know that Waddell's attempt to right this is not an obvious advertisement for his magazine. In fact, it takes significant commitment to sit through the programme, given that much of it consists of interference and white noise crammed between flimsy arty short films. The programme claims to demonstrate that television does not have to patronise, pigeonhole and be comfortable, but much of it looks disappointingly familiar.

Hack and Waddell do, however, occasionally deliver some interesting material. There is a funny sketch by the comedian Paul Kaye, a serious documentary on musical minimalists presented by the singer Bjork, and a brilliantly eccentric profile of an organisation which plots custard-pie attacks on public figures such as Microsoft's Bill Gates. Apart from the occasional graphic of the word *Dazed*, there is no obvious plug for the magazine. Whatever the viewing figures, *Dazed* and *Confused* has stolen a march on its competitors. *Condé Nast*, the publisher of *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, and *Emap*, which produces titles such as *FHM* and *Just Seventeen*, plan similar ventures. In its own dishevelled and slightly pretentious way *Dazed* and *Confused* has beaten them to it.



Jefferson Hack and Rankin Waddell left their rivals standing in the dash to television

## Telly which hopefully your parents will hate

If comedy is the new rock and roll, the major labels — in this case the television companies — have made it increasingly difficult for fresh performers to break into the business, *Vai Sampson* writes.

It is now widely acknowledged in the TV industry that it is virtually impossible to get a sitcom made that does not have a star name attached, or which doesn't adhere to a proven ratings-winning formula.

But as the original alternative comedians such as French and Saunders or Reeves and Mortimer become mainstream, TV comedy looks set to wither without new blood. There is a glimmer of hope for new talent in the form of *Comedy Nation*, a late-night offering from BBC2, which begins its second 13-part run tonight at 12.05am.

Aimed at viewers in their twenties, the series will showcase more than 70 performers, ranging from the avant-garde performance artist The Divine David and his impression of Christ on the Cross, to the quirky Shelagh Martin, wondering if *dormice* got their name by doing security at mouse discos.

An outlet for character-based comedians rather than stand-up performers, the sketches have a raw feel, partly because much of the material is made on a limited budget and partly because some of the gags would never make it on to the screen before midnight.

The biker, Jimmy James (played by James Holmes), in therapy to deal with his PMT — pre-Millennial tension — makes probably the first jokes about Diana, Princess of Wales, on television. And there are references to sex and drugs that might make the National Viewers and Listeners Association blanch.

"There should always be TV your parents hate," says Jon Plowman, the BBC's

Head of Comedy Entertainment. He is hopeful that some of the participants in *Comedy Nation* will continue the honourable tradition of Monty Python by creating comedy that a younger generation feels it owns.

"It is interesting to see the concerns of a different generation," says Plowman. "We hope that at that time of night there are people watching who like edgier comedy, and who are tolerant of experimentation."

*Comedy Nation's* producers have tried to operate an open-door policy. As well as presenting the comedy circuit, a paragraph in *Time Out* requesting material resulted in more than 300 sketches arriving at their office. In view of the show's small budget, performers are asked to provide their own clothes and props.

The main advantage of this hand-to-mouth approach is the speed with which new material can get on air. Jon Plowman says: "The development time in television is notorious. You talk to endless people who say 'it took 18 months and we got a maybe'. With *Comedy Nation*, a sketch that arrives on Monday may be on air the following Friday."

The chance to fail is one of the most crucial elements in the mix. The producers have been told that the question "is it trying something new?" is more important than "is it side-splittingly funny?"

Its success will be judged by the number of spin-offs, pilots or performers who make the transition to earlier timeslots. Two pilot shows have developed from the first series and one performer is already being groomed for bigger things. "The achievement of *Comedy Nation* is opening the door and getting things on," Plowman says. "If the stuff is laugh-out-loud funny as well, I'll throw my hat in the air."

## Cable channel kicks off with a corker

THE dispute over BSkyB's bid for Manchester United is making the happy man of Paul Ridley, the former sports editor of *The Sun*. Now chief executive of MUTV, the world's first channel devoted to a football club, he spent the summer racking his brains about how to racking news headlines for yesterday's grab some headlines — the channel's first broadcast.

It was proving tough — the channel doesn't even have delayed rights to Premier League matches, and is filling airtime with cookery lessons from the club's Danish chef and daiquiri footage of the lads' training.

Then the BSkyB takeover broke, and the media has been beating down the studio floors. "It's been worth millions in marketing," he says. "We'll be presenting all sides of the controversy, interviewing fans; we're not like *The Sun*, pretending there's no resistance, or *The Mirror*, saying everyone's marching on Old Trafford." Long-term his dream is

simple: rights to Man United games.

ITN's presenters and top staff have been told to pencil in Monday, January 4, for the replacement of *News at Ten* with *News at 10.30pm*: a sign of confidence that approval will be given by the Independent Television Commission for this historic change. But Richard Eyre, ITV's personable chief executive, who is masterminding the lobbying, is clearly better at appealing advertisers than charming the politicians, the main opponents of the move.

He made a guest appearance at the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising council meeting late last week, to bring its members up to date.

In a further neat move, Eyre is co-hosting a party with the ITC's chief



executive, Peter Rogers, to mark the publication of volume five of a mammoth history of ITV — just weeks before the commission-meets to say yes or no to the change.

VISCOUNT Rothermere's funeral this week (followed by a stylish champagne wake at the Savoy) was accompanied by much speculation about which editors will suffer as Paul Dacre flexes his muscles. But the real action is taking place a little further down the food chain. Max Hastings acted with dispatch on Monday: he removed Adam Ed-

wards, the Editor of *ES*, the *Evening Standard's* Friday supplement, just a year after he revamped it as a less laddish, more girlie read. It's an odd move since Edwards is matey with Rothermere's son and heir, Jonathan, and was booked to play golf with him later this month near his country house in East Sussex.

The signs are that the new *ES* will be a meatier read, though as Edwards observes: "The paper has never solved this conundrum: is the *Standard* for commuters going out of London, or for those rushing in to Soho?" His take? "Soho definitely."

JOHN MULHOLLAND, whose efforts to breathe life into a new daily *Sporting Life* were scotched by David Montgomery, is joining *The Observer* as a deputy editor. Mulhol-

land, former media editor of *The Guardian*, worked closely with Roger Alton, *The Observer's* new Editor, and although *Observer* journalists are worried about potential tension between their new two deputy editors (Paul Webster is already in place), it would seem that since they are all from *The Guardian*, they are likely to be team players.

Meanwhile, *The Observer* has announced another ten redundancies among journalists.

NEWS broke this week — through penny-pinching Lord Hollick's United News & Media — that Channel 5 was natching up larger than expected losses.

I hope he didn't get to hear of yesterday's jolly. All the staff at Channel 5's slick Covent Garden headquarters were invited to Chessington World of Adventure to bond on its rides. It's clearly hard work being modern and mainstream.







TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 680 6800

# MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

FAK:  
0171 782 7899

**WORLD Class Learning at Strathclyde Graduate Business School**

Full-time study available at Strathclyde  
The Strathclyde Master of Business Administration  
*Full-time, Part-time, Open Learning, Mixed Mode*

The Strathclyde MSc in Business & Management

Other courses offered at SGBS  
MSc in Procurement Management  
MSc in Facilities Management  
MSc in Business Information Systems Management  
Executive Development - Short Courses Programmes

If you would like further information and an application pack for any of these courses please contact the Graduate Admissions Office:

Telephone 0900 66 1566 (UK only)  
Fax: +44 (0) 141 553 2501/8851  
Tel: +44 (0) 141 553 2501/8851  
Internet: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/SGBS>

**THE BATH MBA • Hard currency around the world**

OVER 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN MBA PROVISION • ESTABLISHED, INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED MANAGEMENT SCHOOL • A HIGHLY RANKED UNIVERSITY.

From this exceptional academic environment comes an exceptional business qualification: the Bath MBA.

The University of Bath School of Management is one of only five British MBA Schools to receive top Funding Council ratings for both teaching and research. So you can be sure of excellent teaching, programme content and academic support.

All 3 variants of the Bath MBA. FULL-TIME, EXECUTIVE and MODULAR, are accredited by the Association of MBAs.

For full details, including our regular Open Days/Evenings, contact us quoting Ref. T299.  
Tel: +44 (0) 1225 826132(F/T), 826211(EXEC), 925871(MOD)

Advancing Learning and Knowledge in Association with Business and Industry.

Fax: +44 (0) 1225 826473  
Email: [mbs-info@management.bath.ac.uk](mailto:mbs-info@management.bath.ac.uk)  
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/Departments/Management>  
School of Management, Dept. T102, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

**UNIVERSITY OF BATH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**

**MBA**

Full Time, Part Time and modular courses in:

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
INTERNATIONAL BANKING AND FINANCE  
EXECUTIVE MBA

For further information please telephone 0121 414 6893 or fax 0121 414 3553

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

OPEN EVENING  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 16th  
SEPTEMBER 1998

**THE BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL**

If you want to go further... faster

**Ashridge Executive MBA**

Ashridge's one- or two-year MBA programmes are based on real life assignments and a major strategic consultancy project. Small class sizes, faculty who are all experienced business-people, an international participant mix and a strong focus on personal development add up to a powerful preparation for the challenge of leadership.

Don't leave your career development to chance - talk to Ashridge.

Doris Boyle or Jane Tobin  
Telephone: +44 (0)1442 841143 Facsimile: +44 (0)1442 841144  
Email: [doris.boyle@ashridge.org.uk](mailto:doris.boyle@ashridge.org.uk) Internet: [www.ashridge.org.uk](http://www.ashridge.org.uk)

**ASHRIDGE**  
Do you want to go further?

**MBA**

Develop yourself through our well established, AMBA accredited programme, rated 'excellent'. This is a flexible programme over two years, designed for professional managers who want to combine study with a busy work schedule.

Kingston Business School is situated on a wooded site, easily accessible to the heart of London, the M25, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports.

Open Learning: Intensive tuition one weekend per month commencing September and February  
Evening: Weekly attendance commencing September

For more information contact us by telephone: 0181 547 7615 / 7120 / 7035  
Fax: 0181 547 7452 Email: [mbs@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:mbs@kingston.ac.uk) web: <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/mbs/>

**KINGSTON UNIVERSITY**

**The University of Reading**  
The Management Unit

**OPEN LEARNING FAST TRACK MBA**  
22 MONTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSY MANAGERS

The University of Reading Open Learning MBA has been specially designed for experienced qualified managers. Subject to meeting our admission criteria, you will be exempt from the 18 month Diploma Programme and eligible for our 22 month MBA.

The Programmes offer:

- Flexibility
- Work related assignments
- Monthly practical workshops
- Full tutorial support
- Updatable modules
- Continuous assessment
- Frequent start dates throughout the year

Other Programmes include:

- Certificate and Diploma in Management
- 3 & 5 month MBA modules.

Why not attend one of our FREE introductory workshops?

For more details, please contact:  
The Management Unit, The University of Reading, Building 22, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. Tel: 0118 931 8180 (24 Hrs). Fax: 0118 931 6539.  
E-Mail: [Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk](mailto:Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk) URL: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/MGT>

Next MBA Starts Oct/Nov '98 & Jan '99

It's not too late to apply for Durham's Full-Time MBA course.

0191 487 1422

Durham is one of the few Business Schools to offer three, internationally regarded, AMBA accredited MBA study options - Full-Time, Part-Time and Distance Learning - all designed to extend your knowledge and develop your management skills. These highly flexible options give even the busiest of managers a real opportunity to improve their career potential. So if you're ambitious enough to become one of the world's best managers, phone today for the brochure of your choice.

**DURHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Durham University Business School, Leazes Road, Durham DH1 1TA  
Telephone: 0191 487 1422 Fax: 0191 487 1423  
E-mail: [mbs@durham.ac.uk](mailto:mbs@durham.ac.uk)

**Business and Management Masters Degrees**

YOU can be part of our success story

DO YOU WANT TO:

- develop your career prospects?
- improve your management potential?
- enhance your employability?
- study for a masters degree with 180 or so work experience?

WE CAN OFFER YOU:

- flexible, modular programmes
- various modes of attendance
- close links with industry, commerce and public sector organisations
- excellent social, sporting and study facilities

YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM:

- a wide range of one-year, full-time MBA, MSc and MA programmes including:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Marketing              | Finance            |
| Entrepreneurship       | Statistics         |
| International Business | Computational      |
| Decision Management    | Technology         |
| Management Studies     | Human Resources    |
| General Executive MBA  | Consultancy/Change |

YOU CAN ALSO STUDY PART-TIME

- during the week, at weekends or in flexible blocks

Further details are available from:  
Luton Business School, Pottersbury Way, Hitchin Road, Luton, Beds LU2 9LE.  
Telephone: Luton 01525 749445 or Clarendon House on 01525 499042.  
Fax: 01525 482699 - Email: [gillian.hunt@luton.ac.uk](mailto:gillian.hunt@luton.ac.uk)

A high quality modular MBA from one of the country's leading Universities.

**FULL OR PART-TIME**

...academically rigorous and orientated towards the needs of the practitioner.

For more information about this or one of the school's eight other Masters programmes, telephone (01703) 595352 or write to:  
School of Management (Marketing Unit)  
University of Southampton  
Southampton SO17 1BJ

**University of Southampton**

**Your Future in Management**

The University of North London Business School offers a range of challenging and stimulating postgraduate and post-experience courses, both full-time and part-time. These include:

- MBA full or part-time
- MBA Executive: part-time evenings or Weekend Management School
- MA Management Practice (senior management development programme)
- Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) leading to MBA
- MA Marketing
- MA International/European Business Law
- MA Employment Studies and Human Resource Management
- MA International Finance

Funding support and tax relief may be available.  
Hotline open: weekdays 9.00am-5.00pm.  
Open Evenings: Every Wednesday in September, 5-8pm. The Learning Centre, 236-250 Holloway Road N7 (Opposite Holloway Road tube station).  
Holloway students receive free buses.

**0171 753 3333**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**University of the West of England**  
BRISTOL

"UWE has the best records of all the new universities in the leading quality assessments..."  
Times Good University Guide, 1998

**Go for it! - with an MBA from Bristol Business School**

- rated 'excellent' by HEFCE
- accredited by the Association of MBAs
- options to study in France and Germany
- full or part-time routes

Enrolling now for September's intake **0117 976 3848**

**Go for it! - with an MA/PG Dip in European Business**

- winner of the SW Region Languages for Export Award 1997
- marketing consultancy project
- learn or improve your foreign language skills
- career development loans available

Enrolling now for September's intake **0117 976 3914**

Promoting educational opportunity and the application of knowledge

**Make more of yourself at Bristol UWE**

**University of Hull Executive MBA in London**

The University of Hull MBA degree studied in Greenwich.

Specialisations:

- Management
- Marketing Management
- Health Services Management

24 month duration (13 weekend modules)

Flexible starting dates

15 minutes by Network Southeast from Charing Cross, Waterloo or London Bridge, or through the Greenwich foot tunnel from Island Gardens (Docklands Light Railway).

**Greenwich School of Management**  
Meridian House, Royal Hill, Greenwich, London, SE10 8RD  
Tel: 0181-516 7800  
Email: [enquiry@greenwich-college.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@greenwich-college.ac.uk)  
<http://www.greenwich-college.ac.uk>

**Greenwich School of Management university business education**

**MBA LLM MSc**

Part time, Full time, Open Access, Distance learning for graduates in Law, taught & by research

- In Management, for recent graduates
- In Human Resource Management
- In Financial Services
- In Marketing
- In Direct Marketing
- In Facilities Management
- In Operations & Logistics Management

**Sems, UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**  
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH  
Tel: 01483 259347  
Fax: 01483 259511  
E-Mail: [sems@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:sems@surrey.ac.uk)  
[www.sems.surrey.ac.uk](http://www.sems.surrey.ac.uk)

**Advance your career at a leading Business School**

- MBA by part-time study
- Helping managers achieve excellence
- Quality MBAs: accredited by the Association of MBAs

The Evening MBA is based mainly on evening attendance with summer and autumn four-day schools. You can join the Evening MBA in October, January and September.

The Executive MBA is based on three-day modules. You can next join the Executive MBA in October 1998 or April 1999.

These two year part-time MBA programmes, accredited by the Association of MBAs, bring together managers from a variety of backgrounds forming valuable network links.

For a brochure and application form please contact The MBA Office, Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT  
or tel: 0113 233 2610 or fax 0113 233 4355, email: [mbsenq@lubs.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:mbsenq@lubs.leeds.ac.uk)

**LEEDS UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**The world of education in the 21st Century**

Call today for a prospectus and the opportunity to visit a class, meet current students and see how your career can be advanced. Huron University USA in London is situated in the heart of Kensington and offers recent graduates work placement and research opportunities plus an MBA. When you call our Admissions Office you can also arrange an interview.

- Specialisations in Entrepreneurship, Marketing, MIS and Global Financial Institutions & Finance
- Many years of experience in business education
- Small classes for active lecturers and individual attention
- International networking opportunities
- Multicultural, international study programme
- US and European accredited degrees
- Starting dates in September, January & May

Huron University USA in London  
Office of Admissions, 28 Princess Gate, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PG - UK. Telephone: 0171-381 4899/584 5095  
Fax: 0171-389 3109 E-mail: [Admissions@huron.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@huron.ac.uk)

**HURON UNIVERSITY USA**  
MBA PROGRAMS

**Enter business with a degree of IT**

A degree will be a major asset when job hunting, but it's not enough in today's modern business environment.

A Pitman qualification in computer skills will give you:

- A proficiency in the most popular software applications
- Develop typing and keyboard skills
- Flexible learning programme with courses to suit your needs
- 20% discount on all courses booked now!

For free advice on our graduate courses call **0171 242 4592**  
[www.pitman.com](http://www.pitman.com)

40/43 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JF

**pitman Spring TRAINING CENTRE**  
the future of work

**ST. ALBANS TUTORS**  
THE HODGKINSON DORM FROM COLLEGE ROAD  
10000 KINGSWAY, HATFIELD, Herts.  
\* Interview Practice Courses  
\* One Two Year A-Level Courses  
\* Excellent Results  
Tel: 01727 842348  
88 London Road St Albans AL1 1JN

**Beginner to MBA in under 3 years**

- Modules 1, 6, 9, 12 & 18 month
- flexible course from beginning up to full University MBA level
- Plan full IT, skills training
- IT, IT, spreadsheets, databases
- Practical work placement
- Professional career guidance

Prospectus: (01865) 240093  
St. Aldegonde College  
St. Peter's College, 1000 Kingsway  
Hatfield, Herts. AL10 1AA

**LEARN THE PRACTICAL SKILLS OF HYPNOTHERAPY**

Accredited and Recommended Courses

Whether you intend to pursue a part- or full-time career as a Hypnotherapist, or simply have an interest in the subject, we will give you the skills and confidence to practise as a qualified professional.

**JOIN OUR FOUNDATION COURSE STARTING ON 3 OCTOBER**

For a prospectus, please call (0181) 675-1598 or leave your name, address & phone number on our 24-hour answering service, or write to:

**ICHI**  
The Institute of Clinical Hypnosis,  
A founder member of UKRHO  
28 Tantalion Road, London SW12 8DC.  
Tel: 0181-675 1598 Fax: 0181-675 2230.  
e-mail: [ichypnosis@aol.com](mailto:ichypnosis@aol.com)

THEATRE

0171 680 6800



TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX: 0171 782 7899

EDUCATIONAL COURSES REVIEW

Study Electronics and Information Systems Engineering in Middlesex

Study of electronics is exciting and can be fun when you learn 'by doing'.

HND/BSc/BEng courses in electronic engineering at Middlesex University include:

- ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING - ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
ELECTRONICS AND BUSINESS
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS WITH BUSINESS STUDIES

A few places may still remain for late applicants for the above courses. Call free on:

0800 980 7167

or drop in and see us at Middlesex University, Bounds Green Road, London N11 2NQ

ADVICE AND INFORMATION DAILY DROP-IN SESSIONS 10am-4pm Monday to Friday at our Bounds Green campus



BUSINESS MEDIA FASHION
3 month Business course
Options in Law, Finance, Marketing & Languages
IT - Presentation software, Spreadsheets, Databases, WP, Internet & CD-ROM

LAW UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DEGREE AND DIPLOMA
Private College in heart of London. Full-time, part-time evening and Saturday options.

A-LEVELS AND GCSE
Small class sizes.
High quality tuition from experienced academic staff.

HOLBORN COLLEGE (UK/TH)
200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY
TEL: 0171 885 3377 FAX: 0171 381 3377

POSTS

HUTCHESONS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL GLASGOW
The Governors invite applications for the post of Rector From 1st August 1999

IAPS Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools
SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION ADVISER
Applications are invited for this important senior post in the headquarters office of the leading professional association for Heads and Deputy Heads of independent preparatory schools in the UK and overseas.

FOR A FIRST CLASS DEGREE YOU NEED A FIRST CLASS COURSE
Gary Maydon from Holborn College gained a First Class LLB (Hons) in the University of London's Examination and won a scholarship on our Bar finals.

France by tube (even faster than the tunnel)
A corner of France South Kensington
Our courses start 28 September

LEVEL RE-TAKE & FIRST-TIME CALL
01865 793333 www.oxford.co.uk

Learn French fast Intensive French Classes - Starting now
For a free brochure call 0171 723 7471

Only one medical school offers a world of opportunities.
At St. George's University School of Medicine, students begin basic science training in Grenada and St. Vincent.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS
The Purcell School Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales President: Sir Simon Ratcliffe CBE
Head For September 1999

Degree Courses available for September
King Alfred's is situated on a wooded hillside overlooking the beautiful cathedral city of Winchester.

GET PAID FOR READING BOOKS
100 Free 1000 copies to £200 a week as a Freelance Proofreader and Copy Editor.

FELLOWSHIPS
Frank Knox Fellowships 1999
Four Fellowships for graduate study at Harvard University in the academic year 1999-2000.

Value of Fellowship \$16,000 stipend plus tuition and health fees. Details of eligibility and application procedures obtainable from University or College Registrars or Frank Knox Memorial Fellowships, 548 Westminster Palace Gardens, Ambley Row, London SW1P 1RR. Please send SAE (2pp).

St. George's University SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Our presentation will be held, Monday, October 12, 1998 London Hilton on Park Lane The Curzon Room 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

"A German joke is no laughing matter."
To find out whether you have the aptitude to become a computer programmer, contact Computech International today.

and INTERNET TRAINING With Excellent Career Prospects
MICROSOFT NT4 - MCSE
NOVELL - CNE
WEB DESIGN
NETWORKING FOUNDATION

Music lessons on the World Wide Web
Theory Aural Keyboard www.hofnote.net

WESTONBIRT SCHOOL Tetbury, Gloucestershire
GSA BOARDING/DAY GIRLS 11-18 YEARS
APPOINTMENT OF HEAD
This attractive and successful school for around 200 girls is seeking a new Head to take it on to the next stage of its development.

Victoria Fletcher... Snapping... How did phoera control...

سكزا من الأهل





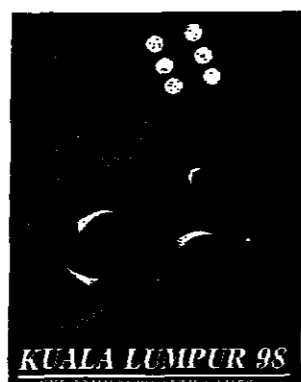


Commonwealth Games: Boxers resist professional lure for prospect of gold medals

Harrison fights to protect future of amateur sport

FROM ROB HUGHES IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE Commonwealth Games ideal is to create soul fellows in sport and, for two apparently ill-matched Englishmen, it is happening.



KUALA LUMPUR '98

They box at super-heavyweight and light-flyweight, but the disparity is greater than meets the eye.

"If it wasn't for what Audley's doing," Jones said, when he could get in a word yesterday, "I wouldn't be here."

He is not alone. Even in these days of lottery money, another England boxer, David Walker, the welterweight, lost his job as a stockbroker's runner because he came to Malaysia for these Games.

in Malaysia.

"The build-up has been excellent," Harrison said. "When I get started in the ring on Monday, I can't complain about the help I've had."

His record of 30 wins (21 with knockouts), a draw and five defeats has attracted offers to turn professional, but Harrison has set his sights on Sydney, by which time he will be 28 and then ready for the professional arena.

"Hopefully, we can renew amateur boxing. TV deliberately tried to sabotage it by not putting it on, but the idea of the Amateur Boxing Union is to raise the profile. I envisage an athlete's commission within the ABA [Amateur Boxing Association], a think-tank where we can put forward ideas to promote the amateur view. Surely the BBC or someone would back a tele-

vised event, like Wimbledon tennis, once a year that puts us back in the public eye." Harrison wrote a "letter of intent" to other boxers, amateur and professional, and, at a launch party a week before coming out to Kuala Lumpur, professional boxers donated funds for "spending money" for the competitors.

From the leadership of Harrison and the encouragement that it gives Jones to fend for himself outside the ropes, the participants might lead their administrators. The message is self-help, a fair application of lottery funding and a less demeaning way to represent England.

Boxers are beginning to use their brains and, from another pool of exertion, Adrian Moorhouse, one of Britain's finest swimmers, was caught yesterday in a moment of early nostalgia. Moorhouse "absolutely cringed" when he heard James Hickman, a fellow Yorkshireman standing yards away, tell a reporter: "My coach at Leeds is Terry Denison, he used to coach Moorhouse."

How time flows. At the opening ceremony today, which occurs three days after competition started, Moorhouse will meet an old friend, Russell Garcia, the hockey player, who intends taking him for a meal to celebrate September 18, the tenth anniversary of Moorhouse's Olympic gold medal in Seoul. The boxers are trying to emulate the swimmer and to have anniversaries to celebrate in their turn.



Adams, contortionist and left-arm spinner, bowling against Northern Ireland

South Africa stretched

BOB WOOLMER, the South Africa cricket coach, was quick to make his feelings known after his collection of Test and international players had struggled to a four-wicket win over Northern Ireland at Chub Aman.

It needed a thoughtful innings from Dale Benkenstein and a daring one by Shaun Pollock, the captain, to hold off a team thought to be the lightweights of group C. "I was upset to say the least," Woolmer said. "Hopefully, this will be a wake-up call for our forthcoming matches. We weren't at the level we should have been and I've told the players that much."

"But we've been in difficult situations against better sides than Northern Ireland. There was always going to be somebody who would get in and play properly on that surface." Benkenstein played very well, with good shot selection and can be proud of his

innings. Pollock's contribution, too, was vital. Northern Ireland could manage only 89 for five from 38.1 overs before a tropical downpour held up the match for 2 1/2 hours, which meant recourse to the Duckworth/Lewis method. This produced a target for South Africa of 131 from 38 overs. At 23 for four, and then 57 for five, when Jacques Kallis was caught at mid-off trying to hit over the top, a shock result was on the cards.

The Northern Ireland new-ball pair, Gordon Cooke and Ryan Eagleson, bowled with great heart to make life difficult for the early batsmen on a damp surface and not until Benkenstein, who made 48 not out and was rock solid from the outset, was joined by Pollock, who made 30, in a partnership of 58, did South Africa manage to pull out of trouble. "I don't enjoy the

Duckworth/Lewis system in this situation," Woolmer said. "It's difficult to quantify how you can be asked to get 40 extra runs." Alan Rutherford, the Northern Ireland captain and wicketkeeper, said: "I've got mixed feelings because I felt we had them on the rocks at one stage."

New Zealand were also given a hard match, by Kenya, who beat West Indies in the World Cup two years ago. Although needing only 145 in 50 overs, New Zealand took 47.3 overs to get the runs and lost five wickets in the process.

"On a pitch like that their bowlers were able to make things awkward," Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, said. "We are very happy to have put them away and move on." In the other match played yesterday, Barbados beat Bangladesh by four wickets after being set 160 in 47 overs.

Wales are laid low by mystery illness

FROM OUR SPORTS STAFF

HOCKEY tournament officials had to postpone indefinitely the women's match between Wales and Canada yesterday after half the Wales squad were laid low with a mystery illness. The contest will be rescheduled, subject to the other games of the teams and required rest times.

Margaret Medlow, the team coach, confirmed that four players were in hospital, with another four confined to bed in the Games village suffering from a form of gastroenteritis. Wales officials refused to name the players involved, saying only that several had been taken ill on Sunday evening.

Medlow said: "We're completely mystified that only half the squad are affected. I can't believe it's dehydration because, as you can imagine, we take no chances on that. The players were all fine after Wednesday's 4-0 defeat by South Africa and were all weighed yesterday."

Simon Organ, who plays for Cannock, scored twice for the Wales men's team in a 2-0 victory over Trinidad & Tobago in pool A yesterday. It was, however, a victory gained after much sweat and toil despite dominance by Wales in both periods of play. They converted only one of their 11 short corners.

Several fine saves by Francis, the Trinidad goalkeeper, kept Wales out at short corners, but Edwards was unlucky to hit the woodwork twice.

Organ eventually converted the eighth short corner for Wales in the 48th minute after which a goal by Daniel for Trinidad was disallowed. Two minutes before the end, Organ made the game safe with a well-taken goal from a pass by Hughes-Rowlands, another Cannock player. In another pool A match, a goal in the 58th minute by Robinson saved New Zealand, who drew 3-3 with South Africa. In pool B, Malaysia defeated Kenya 4-0.

Champion is pushed to the limit by Pollard

PETER NICOLS' bye to the first round proper of the singles squash tournament was cancelled yesterday after Regan Pollard turned up to complete the 64-man field (Colin McQuillan writes).

Later Pollard, of Guyana, might have wished that he had arrived earlier and drawn another Scot. He went down by just a single point to the top-seeded world No 1, while David Heath lost to Shamsul Islam Khan, a Pakistani junior, in straight games.

Heath's older brother and doubles partner for Scotland, Martin, progressed to the first round with Nicol and Stuart Cowie. The Wales squad of Alex Gough, David Evans, Matthew Benjamin and Greg Tipping also went through, as did Steve Richardson, of Northern Ireland.

Simon Parke, the British champion, defeated James Lelake, of South Africa, to reach a first-round match tomorrow against Michael Soo, of Malaysia. There were also wins for Mark Challoner, the England No 2, who defeated Rajdeep Bains, of Kenya, and Paul Johnson, who completed the England squad success with victory over Marlon White, of Barbados.

Wales will face favourites Fiji in the rugby sevens competition after yesterday's re-draw. The withdrawal of Gambia and Zimbabwe has resulted in a change of format, from five groups of four to six groups of three.

The Fijians, led by Waisale Serivi, had been scheduled to play Australia, Sri Lanka and Gambia. They will now take on Wales and Swaziland in the inaugural competition that starts tomorrow. Wales, who have a number of full internationals including Scott Gibbs, the British Lion, were originally drawn in pool D with New Zealand, who are led by Eric Rush, Papua New Guinea and Swaziland.

Hosts Malaysia and Sri Lanka now have the unenviable task of taking on New Zealand, who are the favourites.

Goode still eyeing golden treble

FROM RICHARD EATON

JOANNE GOODE, the only mother playing top-class professional badminton, saw her chances of winning three gold medals improve yesterday even though England's victory over Fiji was little more than a formality.

The 5-0 triumph, the second in succession by the women's team, was achieved in 72 minutes with the expenditure of such modest effort that Goode was effectively given two more days in which to recover from the conjunc-

tivitis she contracted from her baby son, Jack.

This has caused the former All England mixed doubles champion to play in spectacular, close, but, however, have to decide whether or not to continue with this inconvenience until tomorrow because today is a rest day for the women. England will then take on South Africa in a match that decides who reaches the medal positions.

The women from Australia, New Zealand and Scotland also won for the second time yesterday. Scotland's 4-1 success against Wales took them a step closer to winning their first medal since Dan Travers, now the national coach, earned gold in the men's doubles in 1986. Earlier, Wales' men won 4-1 against Fiji, but were unlucky here as well. John Leyung, who fell over in a tropical storm on

Wednesday while running in a car park, injuring his knee, lasted only nine points. Having pulled out of the opening match against England altogether he was unexpectedly thrust into the men's doubles and retired after only six minutes.

"We even tried to get permission to play myself instead," Chris Rees, the Wales coach, who wanted to avoid using players in two matches on the same day in humid conditions, said. However, Rees was deemed ineligible and now the fears are that Leyung may have damaged a cartilage.

The Malaysia men, who could well win a trio of gold medals and make badminton the most successful sport for the home country, scored their second quickfire win, 5-0 against Northern Ireland. They now need only to beat Canada to get into the medal positions.

Games results, page 48

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 22 - MiniBridge 17

Last week I explained the scoring of successful contracts depended on the denomination chosen. The minor suits (clubs and diamonds) score 20 points for each trick above six, the majors 30 points for each trick above six and No-Trumps score 40 points for the first trick and 30 points thereafter.

I also said that your score depended upon the number of tricks aimed for (level). Should your play of the hand result in a score of 100 points or more it is referred to as a 'game' and you receive a bonus of 300 points. There is one small snag. To receive this bonus you must declare that you will make a game contract before the play starts. A game contract is eleven tricks in a minor (5x20=100), ten tricks in a major (4x30=120) or nine tricks in No-Trumps (40+30=70). To make game in No-Trumps requires only nine tricks - less than any other game contract. It is therefore a popular game to contract for.

Anything that scores less than 100 points is known as a partscore and receives a bonus of 50 points. Last week I left you to consider how many tricks you would expect to make on this hand.

You decide that it is best to play in hearts and that you will lose three spade tricks if North has the ace, together with the ace of trumps. Thus you say that you will make a partscore in hearts. If you make nine tricks you will score 140 points (3x30=90 bonus+50). If you make ten tricks you will score 170 points (4x30=120+50).

You have forgotten something - South said he had 14 points and North 3. What are North's three points? South must have the ace of spades. You can therefore make your king of spades for one spade, five hearts and four diamonds, ten tricks in all. Try it. You could therefore have chosen game in hearts as your contract and would have scored the same 120 (4x30) points. However, in addition you would have had a bonus of 300 points for contracting and making a game, giving a total of 420 points - a much better score and why sometimes you must take a risk in deciding whether or not to go for game.

If you are to receive a bonus when you make your contract (either 50 or 300 points), it will come as no surprise to learn that there are penalties when you fail. If you play in a partscore then you lose 50 points for each trick fewer than seven that you make; if you play in game you lose 50 points for each trick by which you fail. So, for example, if you contract for game in diamonds (eleven tricks) and make eight tricks then you score minus 150 (3x50=150).

You can get any five lessons from this beginners' course by sending five 26p stamps to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cardozo US Open

Judit Polgar has gone on from her success in the rapid play match against Anatoly Karpov to score a fine victory in the Cardozo US Open in Hawaii.

Top results were as follows: Judit Polgar and Boris Gulko 8/9; Alex Wotkiewicz, Ian Rogers and Shaked Tal 7.5/9; Julian Hodgson scored 6.5/9. Judit Polgar took the title on tie-break.

White: Judit Polgar Black: Joel Benjamin US Open, 1998

Ruy Lopez

White: Shaked Tal Black: Julian Hodgson US Open 1998

English Opening

Times book

White to play. This position is from the game Wilmoth - Spencer. Major Open, Torquay 1998. How did White power his way through on the kingside to deliver checkmate?

SCHEDULE

TODAY 9.00am-3.00pm Opening Ceremony. TOMORROW 10.30am: Women's 100m freestyle heats. Men's 100m breaststroke heats. Women's 400m individual medley heats. Men's 200m freestyle heats. Women's 200m butterfly heats. Men's 200m individual medley final. Men's 200m freestyle final. Women's 4x200m freestyle relay final. 5.00pm: Synchronized swimming. 10.00am: 1.00am, 6.00am and 10.00am: Team event preliminaries.

FIXTURES

CRICKET British Assurance county championship 10.30, first day of four, 1st over minimum 100 runs. CHERESTER: Kent v Somerset. CHERESTER: Gloucestershire v Essex. LORDS: Middlesex v Gloucestershire. NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Sussex. WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Warwickshire. HEADINGSLEY: Yorkshire v Warwickshire. 10.30, first day of four, 1st over minimum 100 runs. TRENTH BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire. SECOND DAY CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of four, 1st over minimum 100 runs. Second day of three: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire. Southsampton: Hampshire v Lancashire. Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Yorkshire.

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League First division. Tranmere v Huddersfield (7.45). Third division. Halifax v Carlisle (7.45). FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE. Midlands Conference: Northampton v North County (11.0). EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Ely v Fakenham.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League Hull v Halifax (7.30). Sheffield v Bradford (7.30). OTHER SPORT GOLF: British Masters (at County). GOLF: Usher v Lancelotti (at Ravenhill, 7.30). GOLF: Usher v Lancelotti (at Ravenhill, 7.30). SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Wolverhampton (7.30). Oxford v Swindon (7.30). Premier League: Acorn Essex v Exeter (8.0). Edinburgh v Berwick (7.30). Peterborough v Isle of Wight (7.45).

WORCESTER

THUNDERER 2.25 Typical Woman, 2.55 The Full Monty, 3.25 Tactics, 3.55 Mrs Em, 4.30 Running Free, 5.05 Rousing.

GOING GOOD TO FIRM

2.25 NEW STREET NOVICES HURDLE (22,495; 2m 41) (11 runners) 1. 229 BALLOON POINT 25 R Bucker 8-10-12 B Powell 2. 230 GARDING 27 M Shapard 5-10-12 C Johnson 3. 231 GARDING 27 M Shapard 5-10-12 W Johnson 4. 232 GARDING 27 M Shapard 5-10-12 W Johnson 5. 4P-0 THE NEGOTIATOR 25 M Hester 10-11-11 A Maguire 6. 4P-0 CHATTER BOX 25 J Upton 6-10-7 M Maguire 7. 4P-0 MISS MURDER 26 R Cooper 6-10-7 M Maguire 8. 4P-0 MISS MURDER 26 R Cooper 6-10-7 M Maguire 9. 4P-0 MISS MURDER 26 R Cooper 6-10-7 M Maguire 10. 4P-0 MISS MURDER 26 R Cooper 6-10-7 M Maguire 11. 4P-0 MISS MURDER 26 R Cooper 6-10-7 M Maguire

2.55 LONGLEY GREEN NOVICES CHASE (23,502; 2m 71) (10 runners)

1. 1254 NEW SUMMER 10 22.9 C Mann 8-12-9 C Bailey (7) 2. 5P-1 MORTON 151 (S) Lady Cecil 9-11-4 Mags 3. 5P-1 BRUSH WITH FAME 18 (20.7.0) P Hobbs 6-11-2 G Harvey 4. 5-4-4 CHANNEL PASTIME 25 (27.6.5) M Pate 14-10-11 G Harvey 5. 5-4-4 SEA TARTH 51 (27.6.5) P Bowen 7-10-8 M Williamson 6. 022 SPYGLASS 25 (27.6.5) D Webster 7-11-7 M Johnson 7. 5P-1 WOODCOCK 37 (27.6.5) J Brady 9-10-5 M Johnson 8. 11-11 TACTIC 13 (27.6.5) R Ford 8-10-3 M Johnson 9. 022 JUSTICE 170 M Jackson 6-10-4 G Bailey 10. 022 COLLABORER 27 (27.6.5) D O'Brien 10-10-10 G Bailey

3.25 SELLY OAK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (22,460; 3m) (10)

1. 1254 NEW SUMMER 10 22.9 C Mann 8-12-9 C Bailey (7) 2. 5P-1 MORTON 151 (S) Lady Cecil 9-11-4 Mags 3. 5P-1 BRUSH WITH FAME 18 (20.7.0) P Hobbs 6-11-2 G Harvey 4. 5-4-4 CHANNEL PASTIME 25 (27.6.5) M Pate 14-10-11 G Harvey 5. 5-4-4 SEA TARTH 51 (27.6.5) P Bowen 7-10-8 M Williamson 6. 022 SPYGLASS 25 (27.6.5) D Webster 7-11-7 M Johnson 7. 5P-1 WOODCOCK 37 (27.6.5) J Brady 9-10-5 M Johnson 8. 11-11 TACTIC 13 (27.6.5) R Ford 8-10-3 M Johnson 9. 022 JUSTICE 170 M Jackson 6-10-4 G Bailey 10. 022 COLLABORER 27 (27.6.5) D O'Brien 10-10-10 G Bailey

3.55 KNIGHTWICK HANDICAP CHASE (24,581; 2m) (5)

1. 1121 TIME WONT WAIT 19 (27.6.5) P Hobbs 8-12-0 C Llewellyn 2. 406 GREEN GREEN DESERT 128 (27.6.5) G Stevens 11-11-5 A Maguire 3. 1221 MRS EM 8 (27.6.5) P Hobbs 6-10-10 G Bailey 4. 311 SASANAN 41 (27.6.5) R Ford 12-10-11 M Johnson 5. 224 GREEN GREAT 11-4 Saganan 3-4 Mrs Em 7-2 Time Wont Wait 20-1 Arshad

4.30 MOOR STREET MAIDEN HURDLE (22,038; 3m) (9)

1. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 2. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 3. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 4. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 5. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 6. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 7. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 8. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 9. 241 ACRES BUSHIER 267 H Tector-Davis 7-11-5 C Llewellyn

5.05 QUEENSWAY HANDICAP HURDLE (22,320; 3m) (5)

1. 641 REGAL 37 (27.6.5) M Pate 4-11-0 A P McGoy 2. 256 TM A DREAMER 38 (27.6.5) M Pate 4-11-0 A P McGoy 3. 4152 ROUTING 9 (27.6.5) P Hobbs 6-11-11 Mags 4. 450- TENDER SITUATION 138 R Ford 7-10-5 G Bailey 5. 273 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 76 (27.6.5) P Hobbs 6-11-11 Mags 6. 653 BEACON LAKE 317 (27.6.5) S 10-0 W Johnson 7. 6-4 1st 11-4 Woodstock Wanderer 7-2 P Hobbs 8-11-4 Mags 12-1 Tector-Davis

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 30 winners from 90 runners, 33.3% M Pace, 53 from 174, 30.5% C Mann, 11 from 43, 25.6% G Bailey, 24 from 84, 28.5% P Hobbs, 24 from 84, 28.5% G Bailey, 18 from 69, 26.1% P Hobbs, 23 from 127, 18.1% JOCKEYS: A McGoy, 60 winners from 210 rides, 28.6% A Maguire, 29 from 150, 19.3% R Dumas, 22 from 181, 12.2% C Llewellyn, 20 from 125, 16% M Johnson, 21 from 125, 16.8% A Maguire, 19 from 124, 15.3% J Maguire, 2 from 51, 3.9% G Stevens, 19 from 140, 13.6%

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 3.35 Jazz GOODWOOD: 4-15 Agent Muller WORCESTER: 5.05 1st

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard HELLYON a. A mythical beast b. A rock plant c. A troublesome child JUDDITE a. A reactionary fogey b. A religious enthusiast c. A mineral

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Wilmoth - Spencer. Major Open, Torquay 1998. How did White power his way through on the kingside to deliver checkmate?

Answers on page 50 Solution on page 50

Double GOODWOOD GUIDE TO OUR RACECOURSE NATIONAL HILL







ATHLETICS

World Cup hopes hit by series of withdrawals

FROM DAVID POWELL IN JOHANNESBURG

MAX JONES, Great Britain's performance director, was going through the list of withdrawals from his squad for the World Cup here when he was handed a copy of his original line-up to jog his memory.

Since the team was chosen, Jones had lost ten athletes, including three European champions, Jonathan Edwards, Darren Campbell and Dougie Walker.

take maximum points from the four events they should win - Iwan Thomas, 400 metres, Colin Jackson, 110 metres hurdles, Steve Buckley, javelin, and the 4 x 100 metres relay - but it is no less important that the likes of Edwards finish higher than their lowly rankings suggest.

This is an unexpected chance for Edwards to redeem himself in the event which has become a disaster area for Britain. At the last World Cup, Neil Winter no-heighted and Edwards, having been sent home from the 1989 World Cup for his performance in a Barcelona nightclub, failed to register a point at the European Cup this year.

There are separate competitions for men and women, but the British women failed to qualify. In the men's event, Britain is one of only three countries competing against teams representing five continents.

The selection of Edwards exemplifies why the nine million television viewers, who saw Britain leap to the top of the medals table in Budapest, should not switch on in the hope of another all-conquering performance.

Injuries and the proximity of the Commonwealth Games have worked against Jones. Without Edwards in the triple jump, Britain has had to go down to its third-string, Larry Achike, after Julian Golley, the Commonwealth champion, joined the injury list.



Easy does it for, from left to right, Cracknell, Redgrave, Foster and Pinsent, Britain's coxless four

Scullers hit treble top for Britain

SIX more British crews qualified for the world championships finals yesterday, pushing the total to ten with four more possible today.

Greg Searle drew lane No 4 in his heavyweight semi-final. Three would qualify and Searle was accompanied by two former world champions, Cop, of Slovenia, in No 5, and Williams, of Germany, in No 2, with Koven, the world champion, from America, in No 3.

History was made when all three of Britain's scullers qualified for their finals. The hardest task in this respect came for Peter Haining, the lightweight, who had to finish in the top two and was drawn in lane No 3.

Guin Batten qualified for the women's sculls final for the second year running. Last year she finished sixth but is clearly a

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

advantage to 1,500 metres, but Haining kept up his pursuit and swept past the tiring Baenninger 200 metres from home to qualify.

Greg Searle drew lane No 4 in his heavyweight semi-final. Three would qualify and Searle was accompanied by two former world champions, Cop, of Slovenia, in No 5, and Williams, of Germany, in No 2, with Koven, the world champion, from America, in No 3.

Guin Batten qualified for the women's sculls final for the second year running. Last year she finished sixth but is clearly a

faster and more mature competitor this season. Batten settled nicely, led by half-way and, at a steady rate, had clear water at the line.

Batten's elder sister, Miriam, together with Gillian Lindsay, won their double sculls semi with equal steadiness. Batten senior said: "We have something left in the tank for Saturday."

Britain's coxless four, the world champions, in No 5, must also have something left in the tank. "Good, solid and uneventful," said Matthew Pinsent, stroke man after his crew sat between, and ahead of, the fancied Australians and Romanians, over the course. Steve Williams and Fred Scarlett, from Oxford Brookes, qualified third, ahead of Canada, for the coxless pairs final.

GOLF: LEADING AMATEUR TASTES DEFEAT ON HIS HUNDRETH MATCHPLAY APPEARANCE FOR ENGLAND

Wolstenholme hits back Smith breezes to victory

THE hundredth match was not much fun, but things looked up to end in No 101.

The faithful and long-serving Gary Wolstenholme reached his century of appearances in England amateur international colours yesterday morning with the acrid scent of defeat strong in his nostrils, but emerged smelling of roses after winning his singles match in the afternoon.

Wolstenholme, at 38 the oldest man in the England team in the home international se-

BY MEL WEBB

ries at Royal Porthcawl, was joined by Mark Sanders, the English amateur champion, in the morning foursomes against Scotland as he reached a milestone that had been passed by only two men before him.

How Peter McEvoy and Sir Michael Bonallack celebrated their hundredth appearance is lost in the mists of time, but Wolstenholme was beaten. He and Sanders were all square

with Graham Rankin and Ewan Forbes on the last, where a brilliant three-iron by Rankin to four feet set the Scottish pair up for a conceded birdie to win by one hole.

England led 3-2 after the foursomes, and in even wilder weather in the afternoon, took the singles 6-4 to complete a 9-6 victory.

Wolstenholme, playing at No 2, beat Craig Watson 3 and 2. England, winners for the last five years, will play Ireland today to decide this year's championship.

ENGLAND, the defending champions, disposed of Wales with some ease in the women's home internationals at Burnham and Berrow yesterday, winning 6-2.

In conditions that were rated "a bit brisk" by one member - more technical minds estimated the wind was gusting between seven and eight - Kerry Smith, a chef, cooked up a storm of her own. When beating Becky Morgan, of Wales, a Curtis Cup player,

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

Smith, no respecter of reputations, was never down and won on the 16th to take her tally to four wins out of four.

After winning the foursomes, England took the top three singles to secure the match. The doughty Vicki Thomas, who first played in these matches before any of this England team were born, was the only Welsh winner, beating Rebecca Hudson by 4 and 3.

lian Behan, the Irish champion, berused Alison Rose, her opponent, and the spectators with her patented brand of roller-coaster style entertainment.

Three down after six, Behan, a notoriously sluggish starter, was one up six holes later and won on the 17th.

Conaigh Purfield and Tricia Mangan, Ireland's new cubs, had winning debuts, beating Elaine Moffat, Scotland's champion and Hilary Monaghan, a Curtis Cup player, respectively.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing sports results: BASEBALL, BOWLS, CYCLING, EQUESTRIANISM, FOOTBALL, GOLF, HOCKEY, RUGBY UNION, SNOOKER, TENNIS, ROWING. Includes details of matches, scores, and winners.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES RESULTS

Table listing Commonwealth Games results for various sports: CRICKET, WOMEN'S TEAM, BADMINTON, MEN'S TEAM, HOCKEY, SQUASH. Includes team names and scores.

Advertisement for 'GREAT easyJet FLIGHTS OFFER' featuring an image of an airplane and text: '12 EUROPEAN CITIES FROM JUST £34 RETURN' and '300,000 SEATS AVAILABLE'.

Today The Times offers readers incredible savings to 12 European cities for under £60 return with easyJet. A price and destination chart will appear again tomorrow. This fantastic offer is for up to two people travelling together and you can go between October 25, 1998 and March 24, 1999, except flights to Madrid which begin on January 6.

Advertisement titled 'HOW TO TAKE UP THE OFFER' with a 'TOKEN 5' graphic. It lists steps to collect tokens from The Times and The Sunday Times, attach them to a booking form, and book on easyJet.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'North spinning inglori' and 'Benjamin solitary su'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'صكزا من الأهل'.



CRICKET

Northamptonshire spinning towards inglorious victory

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 210 runs ahead of Sussex

AS IF Northamptonshire's season could get no worse, they now face the prospect of a possible maximum penalty of 25 Britannic Assurance championship points for the preparation of a sub-standard pitch at Wantage Road.

Harry Brind, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief inspector of pitches, was called to the ground after the umpires, Trevor Jesty and Bob White, had reported the pitch to Lord's on Wednesday with Northamptonshire struggling to 102 for six on a rain-shortened day. That was extended to 178 yesterday but Sussex, in reply, collapsed to 72 all out in an innings lasting only 139 minutes, their last five wickets going down for only six runs in 39 balls. North-

amptonshire, in turn, ended the day at 104 for four, a lead of 210.

Brind's initial consideration would have been whether or not to convene a panel to inspect the pitch. The sight of a ball from Mark Robinson leaping from a length and clearing the wicketkeeper in the first over of the day would have gone some way to settling his mind.

Northamptonshire made it clear how they believed the pitch would play by including three spinners in their side. That, as much as the worn appearance of a surface used over five days against Kent towards the end of last month, would only have served to heighten the suspicions of the umpires. The extravagant turn of the occasional ball on the opening day prompted the umpires to make their complaint.

The Sussex slide started the moment Michael Davies, a

the left-arm spinner playing in his first championship match of the season, turned his first ball of the match alarmingly to Wasim Khan. His third ball spun a similar distance but this time shot along the ground trapping the left-hander back on his stumps.

As much as the ball turned for both Davies and Jason Brown, the off spinner, the Sussex batsmen's answer consisted of little more than the forward prod and the sweep. Sure enough, Toby Peirce, Chris Adams and Alex Edwards were all undone sweeping and, with Shaun Humphries taken at slip, Davies completed career-best figures of five for 19.

Brown's contribution of five for 23 was no less significant. Only Rajesh Rao was out to an attacking shot, perishing in an attempt to clear mid-on, and Keith Newell, Justin Bates and Robin Martin-Jenkins were bowled through the gate, the latter off the inside edge. Robinson was picked up close to the wicket by Graeme Swann giving Brown his fourth haul of five or more wickets this season. This is his fourteenth first-class match and he has now taken 51 wickets.

Northamptonshire were themselves in danger of collapsing in their second innings before Kevin Curran, dug in for the second time in the day. In the morning his 60 had secured the lead of 106, which was almost doubled by the close of play.

Justin Bates, with three wickets to add to the four he picked up on Wednesday, put the efforts of Northamptonshire's spinners into perspective. In all 15 of the 18 wickets that fell in the day went to the spinners.

The panel that will decide Northamptonshire's fate examined the pitch yesterday evening, but will announce their verdict only at the end of the match. If the county receive the maximum fine they could find themselves rooted to the foot of the championship table.

They should complete a comfortable victory in this match today. But at what cost?



Chris Lewis accepts congratulations for sending Paul Prichard, the Essex captain, on his way, as Leicestershire take a tight grip on the Britannic Assurance championship. Report, page 52. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Smith seams with the best

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, lead Middlesex by 129 runs

GLoucestershire have reached the upper echelons of the Britannic Assurance championship on the back of their seam bowling and their catching close to the wicket. This was demonstrated quite beautifully yesterday as they bowled out Middlesex for 158, gaining a useful first-innings lead of 80 runs.

Courtney Walsh, with four for 41, and Mike Smith, with five for 40, made excellent use of the seam, darting the ball this way and that, even with the old ball.

Mark Alleyne, at second or third slip, took four catches while Martyn Ball seized on a

couple of real beauties. This left one down the leg side for Jack Russell, one bowled and a leg-before.

Walsh has been doing this sort of thing for Gloucestershire game after game, year after year. Yesterday, he brought his tally of championship wickets to 93. Smith has been less prolific, but a tally of 63 first-class wickets is not to be sniffed at, and, here, he produced a devastating final spell that brought him four wickets for no runs in 11 balls.

When Smith came on in mid-afternoon, Middlesex were not too badly placed at 146 for five and, with Keith Brown and Paul Weekes at the crease, they were in with a chance of overhauling the

Gloucestershire first-innings total. Then Smith pounced and Ball and Alleyne pounced, too. In fact, both worked together to get rid of Hewitt, Alleyne knocking the ball up for Ball to complete the catch.

Fraser spotted the act by departing, disbelieving, leg-before, and Tufnell fell, again caught by Alleyne, to Walsh, who played the leading part in undermining the Middlesex middle order, including the wicket of Mike Gatting, after a valiant two hours at the crease.

Gatting, scorer of 36,380 first-class runs has scored 77 of his 84 centuries for Middlesex. On Sunday, he is to be made a presentation on the occasion of his last match for Middlesex at Lord's; yesterday, he batted with characteristic pluck.

The old, solid defence was there. So, too, was the occasional scoring square drive as he and Shah contrived to hold Middlesex together after Strauss, promising well, had been cut off.

Gloucestershire have already lost four cheap second-innings wickets, but Alleyne is still there. The success attained by the men from the West Country this season has owed much to him; his batting, his bowling, his catching and, above all, his captaincy.

Barnett in control for Derbyshire

CARDIFF (second day of four): Derbyshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 67 runs ahead of Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN had reason to hope that Wednesday's inadequate 114 might keep them in the match when Derbyshire were 64 for five on a truncated day at Cardiff yesterday, with Steve Watkins making testing use of a stamming pitch despite his five-week absence (John Thicknesse writes).

As soon as Kim Barnett got set, however, the initiative changed hands. In scoring 72 not out, adding an unbeaten 117 in 34 overs with Dominic Cork, Barnett almost guaranteed that, if the weather allows either side to win, the beneficiaries will be Derbyshire.

After the new-ball spell from Watkins — two for 14 in ten overs, with a slip catch dropped en route — Barnett took charge against the back-up seamers. Last month, he joined Gatting, Hick and Robinson as the only active county cricketers to score 25,000 runs. Yesterday, he peppered the boundaries, hitting ten fours off 121 balls, as though he had another 5,000 runs in hand.

Benjamin secures solitary success

By RICHARD HOBSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 251 runs behind Surrey

SURREY endured a frustrating period at the Riverside yesterday. They spent much of the time twiddling their thumbs in the dressing-room and, in the 14 overs possible between heavy showers, managed to claim just a single Durham wicket.

Lewis struggled on Wednesday evening and appeared just as uneasy when play began at one o'clock. He finally edged a ball from Benjamin to Batty, the wicketkeeper. With rain already in the air, it proved to be the last ball for more than four hours and the fact that Leicestershire, now ten points clear at the top of the Britannic Assurance county championship, were removing Essex

batsmen regularly at Grace Road in the meantime merely heightened the disappointment of Surrey.

They re-emerged at 5.20pm with a renewed sense of purpose and Bicknell, in particular, was unlucky not to make further inroads into the Durham top order. Roseberry had scored three runs in 35 minutes when he was struck on the right hand and forced to retire hurt. Morris and Suggers, the night-watchman, survived the final three overs and Durham will resume today on 72 for one.

The priority for Surrey today is to emulate Leicestershire by accumulating maximum bowling points. Suggers has a point to prove to his county, however. He will be released at the end of the season along with Steve Lugsden, another medium-fast bowler, and Jason Searle, an off spinner.

Stephenson's new opening hours bring modest gain

By IVO TENNANT

WORCESTER (second day of four): Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 135 runs behind Worcestershire

HAMPSHIRE'S hopes of winning their fourth Britannic Assurance county championship match in succession were stymied as much by the weather as Worcestershire yesterday. A total of 34 overs were lost to rain and bad light in six stoppages.

Having bowled out Worcestershire for 212, Hampshire made progress of sorts through John Stephenson's unbeaten 36, the top score of the match. He has reverted to opening the batting after starting the season in the guise of an all-rounder in the middle order, and showed a technique well suited to facing the new ball.

This after he had taken his best figures of the summer, four for 29. Three of these wickets were taken yesterday, including that of Rhodes, who was looking as likely as anybody to play a lengthy innings. There were four wickets for McLean, giving him 59 in all this season. He hadillingworth caught at point. Mascarenhas holding a well-judged low catch. Chapman, who made his highest score for Worcestershire, an unbeaten 19, hit the ball around to good effect with Sheryar at the end of the innings.

Hampshire made a decent enough start before Haynes, who looks to move the ball off the seam at much the same pace as Stephenson, had White and Kendall leg-before in the space of three balls. The best shot of the day was off the last ball, a characteristically crashing square drive by Smith that went to the cover square drive by Smith that went to the cover, but pad resolutely close together.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns showing cricket scoreboards for various matches including Glamorgan v Derbyshire, Northamptonshire v Sussex, and others. It includes details on runs scored, wickets taken, and bowling figures.

Yorkshire hopes sustained by solidity of Wood

By PAT GIBSON

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire have scored 311 for five wickets against Warwickshire

ALL Matthew Wood knows about Yorkshire's proud record of 30 county championships (one of them shared) was learnt at his father's knee, but he played in the great tradition yesterday to keep alive their lingering hopes of winning the Britannic Assurance title in his first full season.

Wood, born in 1977, nine years after Yorkshire last won the championship, not only scored his third century on the most notorious pitch in the land but went on to an undefeated 160, the highest score of his brief career.

What is more, he had gone in when the pitch was at its most capricious. It was much livelier than the day before after a night under covers, and in Giddins, Brown and Munton, Warwickshire had the bowlers to exploit the considerable movement and occasional uneven bounce.

Vaughan was bowled shouldering arms to Giddins. White and Byas were cleaned up by Munton and when Parker was caught in the gully off Brown, Yorkshire were heading for trouble at 116 for four.

Wood, however, made light of the conditions. He drove, cut and pulled the Warwickshire attack to the point of despair in partnerships of 136 with Blakely and 58, unbroken, with Hamilton.

To make matters worse for Warwickshire, their batting, already missing Lara with knee trouble, was further weakened when Singh was sent to hospital with a suspected fractured shin, the legacy of a blow he took while fielding against Leicestershire last week.

Garryowen appoint Hall as director of coaching

JOHN HALL, the former England and Bath back-row forward, has been appointed director of coaching at Garryowen in Limerick, and will take up the appointment on October 1. Hall succeeds Philip Danaher, who is now full-time assistant to the Ireland coach, Warren Gatland.

Hall played 22 times for England, captained Bath for two seasons, and achieved a double in the club's league successes, as captain in 1994 and coach in 1996. "I was very pleased to be approached by Garryowen — I am aware of the club's outlook on the game, and I am looking forward to the challenge of adding to Garryowen's tradition of achievement," Hall said.

Kerr on the way

Now that Doug Ash has announced his resignation as chief executive of English Rugby Partnership (ERP) and English First Division Rugby (EFD), it looks odds-on that Donald Kerr, the



chairman, will follow. Apparently it is not a question of if, but when. It could be as early as Tuesday, when the EFD meets in London. He would like to stay on until Christmas, but time and forces are conspiring against him. Sir John Hall, of Newcastle, has been nominated as a possible successor, but he might be considered too contentious. The smart money is on Keith Barwell, of Northampton, taking over.

John Gasson

Wasps are considering the most appropriate manner in which to honour the memory of John Gasson, their long-serving press officer, who died in July from leukaemia at the age of 68. Gasson served the club with distinction for more than 20 years. He also loved cricket and was a member of the MCC Estates committee, drawing on his experience as a surveyor. Any suggestions to Alan Bodenham on 0181 969 4585.

Morgan dinner

The Wooden Spoon Society is holding a tribute dinner for Cliff Morgan at the London Hilton on September 25. Demand for tickets has been phenomenal. The event, with Tony O'Reilly in the chair, sold out in weeks and 1,254 people are attending, among them 17 members of the 1955 British Lions. The London Welsh Male Voice Choir will sing on what promises to be an emotional night.

Crossed lines

So much for the old alliance between France and Scotland. Gregor Townsend is playing at centre for Brive rather than in his preferred position at fly half, at least until his command of the French language improves. Only then will he be able to call the shots from No 10, and be certain of being understood.

MARK SOUSTER

Advertisement for Barclaycard. It features the Barclaycard logo, the text 'BARCLAYCARD. Proud sponsors of Britain's medal material.', and an image of a hand holding a medal. The background is dark with some light effects.



Davenport stands between Williams and place in final



Williams fought back strongly to defeat Sánchez-Vicario in the quarter-final. Photograph: Stan Honda

Venus must keep rising

A SERIES of intriguing cameos surround the four women's semi-finals at the US Open here at Flushing Meadows. Foremost among them is the plot that could result in any three of the players heading the rankings after the final tomorrow. Ironically, the impostor is the one whose father loudly proclaimed that she would be Venus Williams.

In that respect, it will be fascinating to witness the crowd's allegiance to Williams' semi-final against Sánchez-Vicario, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, late on Wednesday night. There has been the usual bout of controversy, albeit mild. There has been the usual destruction of her early opponents, but there has also been a dissipation of her support.

The galleries once hypnotised by her remarkable unbragging are no longer entranced and Williams is well aware of it. "The crowd has been their favourites," she deferred. "I am still a new player on the tour."

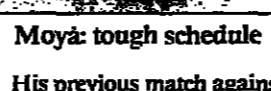
Williams' second-set duel with Mary Pierce in the fourth round echoed to tumultuous applause for both players. It was a similar story against Sánchez-Vicario: they cheered for Williams when she was down, then reversed their support when she forged ahead. Such ambivalence hardly squares with the New York perception that if you're not American, you're not worth watching.

Players subject to whims of TV

IT IS the eleventh day of the US Open and the bags under the eyes of the staff at Flushing Meadows are growing heavier by the hour. It is the same the world over at this stage of a grand-slam tournament, but anywhere else the feeling of tension - and relief - that the finals are approaching would be enough to keep everyone going.

The second Thursday should be women's semi-finals day, allowing the winners a day off before Saturday's final and whetting the appetite for the men's semi-finals on Friday. Normally the place would be full of spectators settling in for a day of important matches. But this is America, where everything is different, and anyone who forked out their \$45 for a ticket to the daytime session was in for a thin time.

The only match of note was the last men's quarter-final between Carlos Moyá and Magnus Larsson, but seeing as neither of them was an American and was thus deemed to be an unknown, the French Open champion found his match wedged in between a doubles semi-final and the mixed doubles final. Moyá must be getting used to such treatment by now.



Moyá: tough schedule

His previous match against Alex Corretja was scheduled as the last during the night session on Tuesday, following Martina Hingis and Monica Seles. By the time the women had finished, the crowd had dwindled to around 1,500.

Flowers on the rampage

Gardens of the Caribbean Channel 4, 8.00pm Anne Switbank offers a six-part tour of the horticulture of the West Indies, helped by photography which is more than equal to the lushness of the vegetation and its dazzling colours. She begins in a rainforest in Trinidad, the perfect place for the observation that, in a tropical climate, growth rates can be phenomenal. The problem is not getting things to grow, but keeping them in check. Surprisingly, perhaps, she spots many flowers similar to those at home. But her focus is on the native plants, even ones she personally does not care for such as the waxy anthuriums.



Nigel Havers and Jane Gurnett star in a new series of Dangerfield (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Dangerfield BBC1, 9.30pm As foreshadowed in the previous series, Nigel Havers's Dr Jonathan Paige has taken charge of the Warwickshire surgery. He arrives promising a "complete overhaul of management procedures", which may have the staff quaking but seems unlikely to captivate the viewers. More promising is the fallout from Paige's other job as police surgeon. The new Dr, Gillian Cramer (Jane Gurnett), is a possible source of romance for the divorced doctor, though she is a forthright character who is likely to set her own terms. Meanwhile, Paige and Cramer form a prickly alliance to solve a murder at a fairground, behind which is an acrimonious family history. Tony McHale's script ensures an infallible rule: if a suspect confesses with 15 minutes of the episode still to go you can be sure that he or she is covering up for the real killer.

Never Mind the Buzzcocks BBC2, 10.00pm It is curious how so many of today's younger comics are owing their celebrity (not to mention their bread and butter) to a genre which in earlier and more irreverent days they would have despised. This is the panel game. Mention Mark Lamarr, Phil Jupitus and Sean Hughes and what

springs to mind is not their careers in stand-up but their roles as chairman and team captains on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*. Or you can argue that this pop music quiz is an ironic subversion of the genre, rather than an endorsement of it, and that behind the banter, Lamarr, Jupitus and Hughes are people who genuinely like popular music. Another who has come better known for panel shows than original material is Vic Reeves. By chance he guests tonight, in a reversal of the roles he and Lamarr perform on *Shooting Stars*.

Rock Family Trees: Sabbath, Bloody Sabbath BBC2, 11.15pm Here is the story of four working-class lads from Aston, Birmingham, for whom making music offered a way out of life in a factory. The quartet who became Black Sabbath came together in 1968 as a result of an ad in a local music shop and went through a couple of changes of name before hitting on the title that summed up their mixture of hard rock and demonic imagery: "They screamed, they outraged. They shouted obscenities. The drummer threw his kit at the audience. The record companies were sceptical but they became a cult success on both sides of the Atlantic, took to drink and drugs, broke up, reformed and survived. The four originals, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi and Bill Ward, tell it how it was." Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Horses for Courses Radio 4, 11.30pm A former editor of *The Times* once asked me if I wanted to buy "part of a horse", but that sounded too much like something out of *The Godfather*, so I declined. You may have deduced from this that horse racing is a bit of mystery to me but I learnt plenty from the first of this series presented by Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor. Tonight we discover something about the qualities that a successful horse needs, but useful attributes vary according to different people: Oakley recalls one trainer who bought a horse because, "even though it had the body of Mr Bean it had the head of Arkle". More usually, look for "good strong quarters for propulsion". And apparently you can buy "a very nice filly" for £18,000.

The Friday Play: Beauty and the Beasts Radio 4, 9.00pm Got the decorators in? Record this and play it to them, preferably while you are out. Stella Gonet stars as Anthea Lostgarden, just back in Britain after ten years spent in the African bush. She is a scientist with a particular interest in the relationship between man and the apes. She develops a new theory about this link and decides to test it on Bill and Rick (David Peacock and Darren Tighe) who have been called in to decorate her house. Bill and Rick are greeted by the loud sound of apes, but decide this must be "the plumbing". For the builders, this is the chance to make a lot of money out of Lostgarden, a conclusion they are quite likely to revise as time goes by... Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.30am Chris Moyles 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Peter Tong's Essential Saturday 8.00 The Westwood Show 9.00 The Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Groenewald 4.00 Emma B

7.00am News 7.15 Inflight 7.30 Along the Great North Road 7.45 Come Inside 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf: Human Coccyus 213 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News (948 only) News in German 9.15 The World Service 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Learning World 10.30 Speaking of English 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 A Green History of the Planet 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 News (948 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Bringing Up Baby 2.00 Newsbeat 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.00 News 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Stories from the Atlantic 4.30 Science in Action (948 only) News in German 5.00 News 5.05 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Inflight 6.30 How To Listen (948 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 News 8.05 Outlook 8.25 Focus on Faith 8.30 Multitrack: Alternative 9.00 Newsbeat 10.00 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Crime and Punishment 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Inflight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack: Alternative 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From the Headlines 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Stories from the Atlantic 2.45 Short Story 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Crime and Punishment 4.00 News 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Baker 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour: favourite places voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum: Includes Continuous Classics plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world. Presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. William Lloyd Webber (Investigation), Elgar (Enigma Variations), Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No 4), A. A. Milhaud: Vaughan Williams (A Pastoral Symphony) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

6.00am Nick Baker 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour: favourite places voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum: Includes Continuous Classics plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world. Presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. William Lloyd Webber (Investigation), Elgar (Enigma Variations), Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No 4), A. A. Milhaud: Vaughan Williams (A Pastoral Symphony) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Petroc Trelawny. Includes Stamford (The Bluebird); Copland (Clarinet Concerto); Britten/Berkeley (Mont Juic); Flosser (Overture An Italian Girl in Algiers). 9.00 Music: The Archers (1956) Suite for the once again of the composer's music. Includes Boyce (Symphony in D minor, Op 2 No 8); Chopin (Two Waltzes, Op 64); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in D minor); Handel (Cantatas Anhren No 5; I Will Susanna); Haydn (Cello Concerto in A flat, Op 42); Georg Muffat (Sonata No 5 in G, Armonico tribute). 10.30 Artist of the Week: Jean-Yves Thibaudet (11.00) includes: Johannes Brahms (Piano Concerto in G major, Op 5 No 2); in D, Op 102 No 2). 2.00 BBC Voice and Viola. Chns de Souza introduces more early music recordings, including works by Frescobaldi, Fayrfax and Bach and a rude song by Lassus. 4.45 Music Machine: In at the Deep End (r) 5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty investigates the story of the Palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire 300 years ago. 7.30 BBC Proms 88 Ruth Ziesak, soprano, Bernarda Fink, contralto, Herbert Lippert, tenor, Neal Davids, bass. Arnold Schoenberg Chor, Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Niklaus Hamoncourt; Beethoven (Missa Solenne). 9.15 Postscript: Living Ideas. Or Simon Critchley delivers the modern French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (5/5). 9.30 Improvisation. Composed by Faure for piano and harp solo. Paul Crossley, piano, Marica Peckis, harp. 9.50 Sounding the Century. Dominic Richards, piano. Royal College of Music 20th Century Ensemble under Edwin Roxburgh. Ravel, arbut Weill (Frontispiece for a debate by Lord Clement Jones, Ruth Lewis and the Times columnist Alan Coren). 8.45 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke. 9.00 News: The Friday Play: Beauty and the Beasts. A Black comedy by Mike Harris with Stella Gonet, Trevor Peacock and Darren Tighe. See Choice. 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Diviner. Rossieven Lushan reads the last of her short stories by Brian Felt. When Nelly Doherty's husband is drowned in Lake Keearagh, the villagers employ a dowry to find his body, and a shameful secret is discovered during the investigation. 11.30 Horses for Courses. Robin Oakley, racing enthusiast and political editor of the BBC, follows the progress of a group of yearlings as they are prepared for their first races. See Choice. 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning reworking of Ovid's Metamorphoses (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

the the Palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire 300 years ago. 7.30 BBC Proms 88 Ruth Ziesak, soprano, Bernarda Fink, contralto, Herbert Lippert, tenor, Neal Davids, bass. Arnold Schoenberg Chor, Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Niklaus Hamoncourt; Beethoven (Missa Solenne). 9.15 Postscript: Living Ideas. Or Simon Critchley delivers the modern French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (5/5). 9.30 Improvisation. Composed by Faure for piano and harp solo. Paul Crossley, piano, Marica Peckis, harp. 9.50 Sounding the Century. Dominic Richards, piano. Royal College of Music 20th Century Ensemble under Edwin Roxburgh. Ravel, arbut Weill (Frontispiece for a debate by Lord Clement Jones, Ruth Lewis and the Times columnist Alan Coren). 8.45 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke. 9.00 News: The Friday Play: Beauty and the Beasts. A Black comedy by Mike Harris with Stella Gonet, Trevor Peacock and Darren Tighe. See Choice. 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Diviner. Rossieven Lushan reads the last of her short stories by Brian Felt. When Nelly Doherty's husband is drowned in Lake Keearagh, the villagers employ a dowry to find his body, and a shameful secret is discovered during the investigation. 11.30 Horses for Courses. Robin Oakley, racing enthusiast and political editor of the BBC, follows the progress of a group of yearlings as they are prepared for their first races. See Choice. 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning reworking of Ovid's Metamorphoses (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with Anne Ford and John Humphrys. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day. 9.00 In the Footsteps of Charles. Professor Anthony Clare talks to the investigative journalist Gita Sereny, author of a controversial book about Mary Bell which has raised a number of fundamental questions about human nature (r) 9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship. 9.45 (FM) The One's Watchsong. Tim Pigott-Smith reads A. A. Milhaud's (1926) suite to the once general cycle of lullaby and its inhabitants (5/5) 10.00 News; Women's Hour, with Jenn Murray. 11.00 News; A Gothic Cathedral. Simon Fanshawe tells the story of Robert's Treasure of English Words and Phrases. 11.30 Babbalewick Hall. Scott Chery's 18th-century comedy starring Nicholas Le Prevost, Forbes Jesson and Dove Hill. 12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours. Introduced by John Wain 12.57pm Weather. 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke. 1.30 Paul Play. A new series of the murder-mystery panel game. Simon Brett is joined by Ruth Dudley Edwards and Robert Richardson. With Mara McElhanna and Lee Simpson as the witnesses. 2.00 News; The Archers (1956) Suite for the once again of the composer's music. Includes Boyce (Symphony in D minor, Op 2 No 8); Chopin (Two Waltzes, Op 64); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in D minor); Handel (Cantatas Anhren No 5; I Will Susanna); Haydn (Cello Concerto in A flat, Op 42); Georg Muffat (Sonata No 5 in G, Armonico tribute). 10.30 Artist of the Week: Jean-Yves Thibaudet (11.00) includes: Johannes Brahms (Piano Concerto in G major, Op 5 No 2); in D, Op 102 No 2). 2.00 BBC Voice and Viola. Chns de Souza introduces more early music recordings, including works by Frescobaldi, Fayrfax and Bach and a rude song by Lassus. 4.45 Music Machine: In at the Deep End (r) 5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty investigates the story of the Palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire 300 years ago. 7.30 BBC Proms 88 Ruth Ziesak, soprano, Bernarda Fink, contralto, Herbert Lippert, tenor, Neal Davids, bass. Arnold Schoenberg Chor, Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Niklaus Hamoncourt; Beethoven (Missa Solenne). 9.15 Postscript: Living Ideas. Or Simon Critchley delivers the modern French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (5/5). 9.30 Improvisation. Composed by Faure for piano and harp solo. Paul Crossley, piano, Marica Peckis, harp. 9.50 Sounding the Century. Dominic Richards, piano. Royal College of Music 20th Century Ensemble under Edwin Roxburgh. Ravel, arbut Weill (Frontispiece for a debate by Lord Clement Jones, Ruth Lewis and the Times columnist Alan Coren). 8.45 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke. 9.00 News: The Friday Play: Beauty and the Beasts. A Black comedy by Mike Harris with Stella Gonet, Trevor Peacock and Darren Tighe. See Choice. 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Diviner. Rossieven Lushan reads the last of her short stories by Brian Felt. When Nelly Doherty's husband is drowned in Lake Keearagh, the villagers employ a dowry to find his body, and a shameful secret is discovered during the investigation. 11.30 Horses for Courses. Robin Oakley, racing enthusiast and political editor of the BBC, follows the progress of a group of yearlings as they are prepared for their first races. See Choice. 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning reworking of Ovid's Metamorphoses (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

the the Palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire 300 years ago. 7.30 BBC Proms 88 Ruth Ziesak, soprano, Bernarda Fink, contralto, Herbert Lippert, tenor, Neal Davids, bass. Arnold Schoenberg Chor, Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Niklaus Hamoncourt; Beethoven (Missa Solenne). 9.15 Postscript: Living Ideas. Or Simon Critchley delivers the modern French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (5/5). 9.30 Improvisation. Composed by Faure for piano and harp solo. Paul Crossley, piano, Marica Peckis, harp. 9.50 Sounding the Century. Dominic Richards, piano. Royal College of Music 20th Century Ensemble under Edwin Roxburgh. Ravel, arbut Weill (Frontispiece for a debate by Lord Clement Jones, Ruth Lewis and the Times columnist Alan Coren). 8.45 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke. 9.00 News: The Friday Play: Beauty and the Beasts. A Black comedy by Mike Harris with Stella Gonet, Trevor Peacock and Darren Tighe. See Choice. 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Diviner. Rossieven Lushan reads the last of her short stories by Brian Felt. When Nelly Doherty's husband is drowned in Lake Keearagh, the villagers employ a dowry to find his body, and a shameful secret is discovered during the investigation. 11.30 Horses for Courses. Robin Oakley, racing enthusiast and political editor of the BBC, follows the progress of a group of yearlings as they are prepared for their first races. See Choice. 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning reworking of Ovid's Metamorphoses (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46 HELLYON (c) Or hellion. A troublesome or irreproachable person or mischievous child. Probably a variant of halion, a lost or lazy rascal. H. G. Wells. You can't be too careful, 1941: "That vision of Swedenborg's when all the damned and blessed fly of their own accord to the particular places appointed, them, hellyons of every sort to their heels and the blessed to their heavens." JUDDITE (c) A mineral of the amphibole group. The eponym of John Wesley Judd (1840-1916), English geologist. "It may thus be concluded that the juddites generally refer to (manganous) manganese tetraborate compositions." NIGHTINGALE (a) The edible frog Rana esculenta, which was introduced into East Anglia early in the 19th century. "The lakes, canals and meres of East Anglia became well-stocked with [edible] frogs. Locals called these invaders Cambridgeshire nightingales." HARPUITSBOE (c) An evergreen shrub belonging to the genus Euryops, especially the resin-bush.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxh5! gxf5 2 Rxf5 Rh7 3

The right chemistry for every student's future.



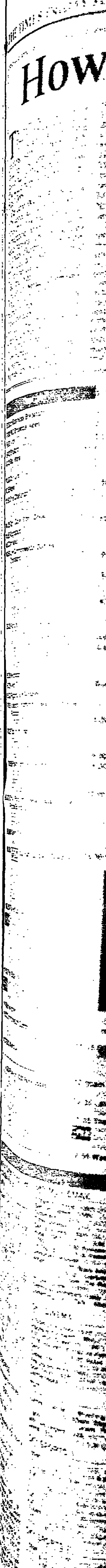
Make the grade with these two great student deals from Dell. Both the PC and notebook combine leading technology and software packages to help you whizz through your college work and achieve the highest marks. And not only are they offered at incredibly affordable prices, but also with the facility to pay in easy monthly instalments. So study the specs and then call Dell, the world's largest direct PC manufacturer.\*

DELL DIMENSION™ V350
Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
Intel® 4GBX AGPset
64MB SDRAM
512KB Internal Cache
6.4GB EIDE Hard Drive
Integrated ATI Rage Pro Turbo 2 x AGP 8MB Video
17" Colour TC095 SVGA Monitor (0.28 dot pitch, 15.9" Viewable Area)
17/40 x CD-ROM
Integrated Yamaha XG 64 Voice Sound and
Alicc Lansing ACS 295 Speakers with Subwoofer
2 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA Shared and 1 ISA Expansion Slots
10mega Zip Drive and 3 x 100MB Cartridges
Mini Tower Chassis
US Robotics 56Kb/s V90 Ready Modem inc.
FREE 1 month BT Internet Trail
Microsoft® Windows 98
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition V2
£1,199 (£1,150.33 inc VAT)
DFS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE £44.99

Table with columns: Loan Period, Cost (inc VAT), Deposit, Loan Amount, Monthly Repayment, Total Amount Repayable, APR. Includes a 'FREE EXECUTIVE CARRY CASE' offer.

THE EASY WAY TO PAY\*
Enjoy the benefits of owning your Dell Dimension PC by paying in easy monthly instalments.

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE
0870 9075668
www.dell.com/uk/buydell
DELL logo











RACING 47
Double Trigger
blazes down
final straight

SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1998

TENNIS 52

Venus rises to
her task
in US Open



Carlton
sets its
sights on
Arsenal

By MATT DICKINSON

THE board of Manchester
United had predicted on
Wednesday that it would
be setting a trend when it
agreed to sell the club to
BSkyB for £623 million and
confirmation arrived
promptly yesterday
when Carlton emerged as
the latest media predator.
Carlton admitted that it
is in takeover talks with
Arsenal and it was
reported that it is also
holding talks with Aston
Villa, further evidence
that the television
giants are casting their
voracious gaze around
the FA Cup Premiership.

One possible outcome
could be an offer being
made by Carlton for
Arsenal.
Villa were more
circumspect, saying
merely: "We have had
talks with a
communications firm
and there is a chance
that a deal might be
wrapped up in the
same way as with
Manchester United."



Takeover bid
Letters

achievement, Carlton's
main target is Arsenal.
The winners of the
Premiership and FA
Cup Double have, like
Manchester United,
been in the thick of
talks over a new
European Super League
and are run by an
ambitious and astute
board that is keen to
keep at the forefront
of the booming
football market.

The battle for
increasingly lucrative
television rights to
screen games is why
Carlton, worth £2.6
billion, is considering
a £275 million offer
for the Highbury club.
BSkyB's deal to show
FA Premier League
matches expires in
2001 and the
Restrictive Practices
Court will rule in
January whether
clubs will then be
allowed to negotiate
their own contracts.
If so, it would mean
a scramble among
broadcasters for
the rights to leading
clubs, so owning
one of the country's
most successful
teams would
guarantee a slice
of the action.
With the advent
of multi-channel
digital television
and pay-per-view,
projected revenues
dwarf the existing
BSkyB deal, in
which Premiership
clubs expect to
earn an average
£4 million per
year.



Clarke blasts his way out of a bunker on his way to a five-under par first-round score of 67 at the Forest of Arden. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Montgomerie goes back to basics

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE are few better
feelings in golf than
going to the practice
ground and eradicating
a fault, or starting a
round having just hit
half a dozen really
good shots on the
practice ground. The
difficulty, as Colin
Montgomerie and
Justin Rose
demonstrated here
yesterday, in the One
Two British Masters,
is that good form
on the practice ground,
whether before or
after a round, can
remain there.

Montgomerie is
struggling to
eradicate a hook
from his game, a
rogue stroke that
originally entered
his repertoire at
his own invitation,
which makes it
even more
galling.
"I got to No 2 in
the world and
when you get to
No 2 at anything
you want to be
No 1," Montgomerie
said after his
70, two under
par, in the first
round at the
Forest of Arden.
"I felt I needed
to improve and
I tried to but it
didn't work."

As a result of
first trying to
change his style
of play, and
now trying to
return to it,
Montgomerie
has been
struggling with
his game for
some time,
though there
are occasional
signs that he
is getting
back to
playing the
way he used
to.

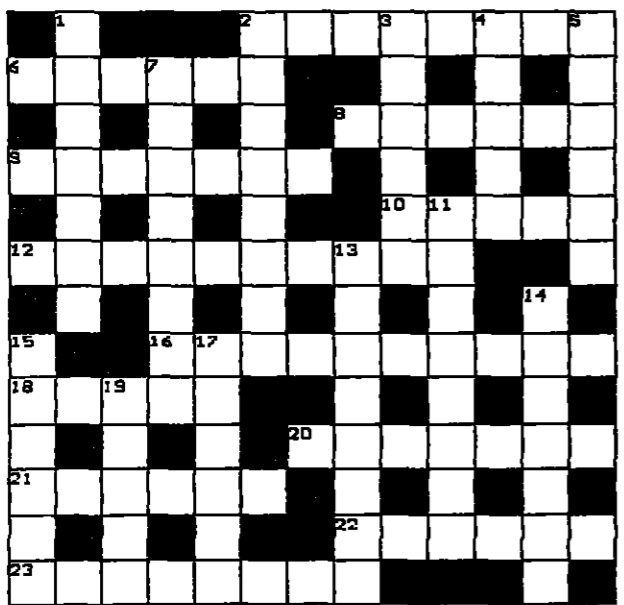
Montgomerie
said, with a
vigorous
shake of his
head.
"Since I lost the
Irish Open
course,"
Montgomerie
said.
"On the practice
ground you
can drop
another ball,
and hit
another and
it does not
matter. On
the golf course
it does
matter. That
is where the
problem
is right now."

dropped on the
10th and 11th,
before a degree
of stability
was
demonstrated.
Rose played
the 12th to the
18th in one
under par. This
was too little
and, almost
certainly, too
late because
surviving the
36-hole cut
after starting
with an 80,
eight over
par, his
highest score
as a
professional,
will require a
score today
that is likely
to be beyond
the ability
of the 18-year-
old.

Clark's certainty
and accuracy
with his irons,
particularly,
would have
made
Montgomerie
and Rose
green with
envy. Clarke,
who is
trailing
Lee Westwood
by less than
£5,500 in the
race to top
the order
of merit, hit
a five-iron
to seven feet
on the 6th, a
seven-iron
to 15 feet on
the 11th and
a six-iron to
three feet on
the 15th. Such
accuracy
brought
his rewards.
Clarke leads
by one
stroke.

Advertisement for Danny Baker, featuring a photo of him and the text 'The one and only DANNY BAKER'.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD



No 1508

- ACROSS
2 Voltaire's optimist (Can-
dide) (8)
6 Elegant cavalryman (6)
8 Loose collection (6)
9 Australian interior (7)
10 Cloister court; (Northern)
yard (5)
12 Ranting speaker (3-7)
16 Fond of company (10)
18 Film for home viewing (5)
20 Rail tracks in yard (7)
21 Wood for furniture: edible
wrinkled kernel (6)
22 Vigour (6)
23 Range of freedom (8)
DOWN
1 Heaped, white cloud mass
(7)
2 Make (future event) impos-
sible (8)
3 Cause of resentment (6)
4 Regularity; a taxonomic
group (5)
5 To foam, be agitated (6)
7 Wrecking activity (8)
11 Guile, subterfuge (8)
13 (NT) hypocrite (8)
14 Trunks and cases (7)
15 Affirmation (6)
17 Strongly, healthily built (6)
19 Dutch town, its blue ware (5)

Advertisement for The Times Bookshop, listing crossword titles and contact information.

Leicestershire tighten grip
as Essex surrender tamely

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (second day of
four): Essex, with six second-
innings wickets standing, are
242 runs behind Leicestershire.

CHAMPIONS require
fortune as well as
form and
Leicestershire
were blessed by
both yesterday.
While they
swept towards
apparently
inevitable victory
at Grace Road
with the
compliance of
the weather
and the
abject cricket
of Essex,
their most
pressing
rivals, Surrey,
could do little
but rage at
the rain in
Durham.

at the club office,
and the
captaincy
is sure to
be a matter
for
debate.
Paul
Prichard,
in his
fourth
season
and the
most
experienced
of the
current
county
captains,
can hardly
feel
secure,
not least
because
his own
form has
collapsed.

was Vince Wells,
finally
miscuing
to mid-off
yesterday
after
384
minutes,
of which
the first
200
were
spectacular
and the
remainder
merely
steadfast.
It was,
however,
a
monumental
innings
by a man
who
should
feature
in any
list of
contenders
for
player
of the
season.

of Jamie Grove,
19, some
compensation
for his
rough
treatment
on the
first day,
but Alan
Mullally,
whom he
dismissed
first ball,
was soon
giving
a
master-class
in how
to bowl
on this
pitch.



Simmons: superb slip catch

LEICESTER SCOREBOARD table showing innings scores, batsmen, and bowlers for both teams.

Advertisement for Sun Microsystems, featuring a photo of a computer monitor and text about their products and services.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring a man's face and the text 'Imp President fights his li...'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'مركز من الأمل'.